



Baghdad warned by security council

UN condemns war crimes by Iraq in Kuwait

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND ALAN TILLIER IN PARIS

THE UN Security Council yesterday took its first action against Iraq in more than a month by passing a composite resolution giving a warning that the Baghdad leadership will be held accountable for war crimes and Kuwait's destruction.

The vote was to be reinforced later in the day by the highest-level meeting ever of the council's military arm, which brings together senior officers from Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The 15-nation council voted 13-0, with Cuba and Yemen abstaining, for the omnibus resolution, which had been watered down dramatically in protracted negotiations. Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi ambassador, said in an hour-long speech: "This will make it possible for those who advocate war, combat and aggression to say explicitly that they have exhausted all attempts to achieve peace and that they have failed and that the war option is the only option left."

The UN move came as more than 300 French na-

tional flew home last night from Baghdad amid scenes of celebration, tempered only by the sadness of those left.

It was the first vote by the security council against Iraq since a special meeting of foreign ministers approved an air blockade on September 25. Subsequent efforts to push an anti-Iraq resolution through the council were thwarted until yesterday by debate on the Israeli-occupied territories in the aftermath of the killing of 21 Palestinians at the Temple Mount on October 8.

The vote was postponed at the last minute on Saturday to allow Yegor Gorbachev, the Soviet foreign minister, to make a new diplomatic effort to obtain Baghdad's withdrawal from Kuwait. Diplomats said yesterday, the Soviet Union was embarrassed that Mr. Gorbachev, described by one as "Mr. Primadonna", appeared to have failed. He secured promises from Baghdad regime for the repatriation in the coming weeks of some 1,000 Soviet workers in Iraq, but appeared not to have taken the prospects for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf stalemate any further. President Gorbachev, during his visit to France yesterday, ruled out a military solution to the occupation of Kuwait and called for an inter-Arab conference.

The UN resolution, number 674, condemned Iraq for taking hostages and mistreating people in Kuwait. In unusually strong language, it also condemned "the destruction of Kuwaiti diplomatic records, forced departure of Kuwaitis, and relocation of population in Kuwait, and the unlawful destruction and seizure of public and private property in Kuwait, including hospitals, supplies and equipment."

Although British diplomats had originally suggested that Iraq's frozen foreign assets could be used to pay compensation, the resolution simply "reaffirms" Baghdad's liability for loss caused by invading and occupying Kuwait. The security council "invites states to collect relevant information

regarding their claims, and those of their nationals and corporations, for restitution or financial compensation by Iraq with a view to such arrangements as may be established in accordance with international law."

Western calls for Iraqi officers to be tried for war crimes were only incorporated in similarly weak language, inviting countries to "collate substantiated information" on grave breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention on the rights of civilians under occupation.

American officials initially floated the idea that the resolution would open the way for a UN-flagged ship to challenge Iraq's claim to sovereignty over Kuwait by carrying food to the embassies there.

The resolution cautions Iraq that if it continues to ignore the security council's decision, further enforcement measures will be taken.

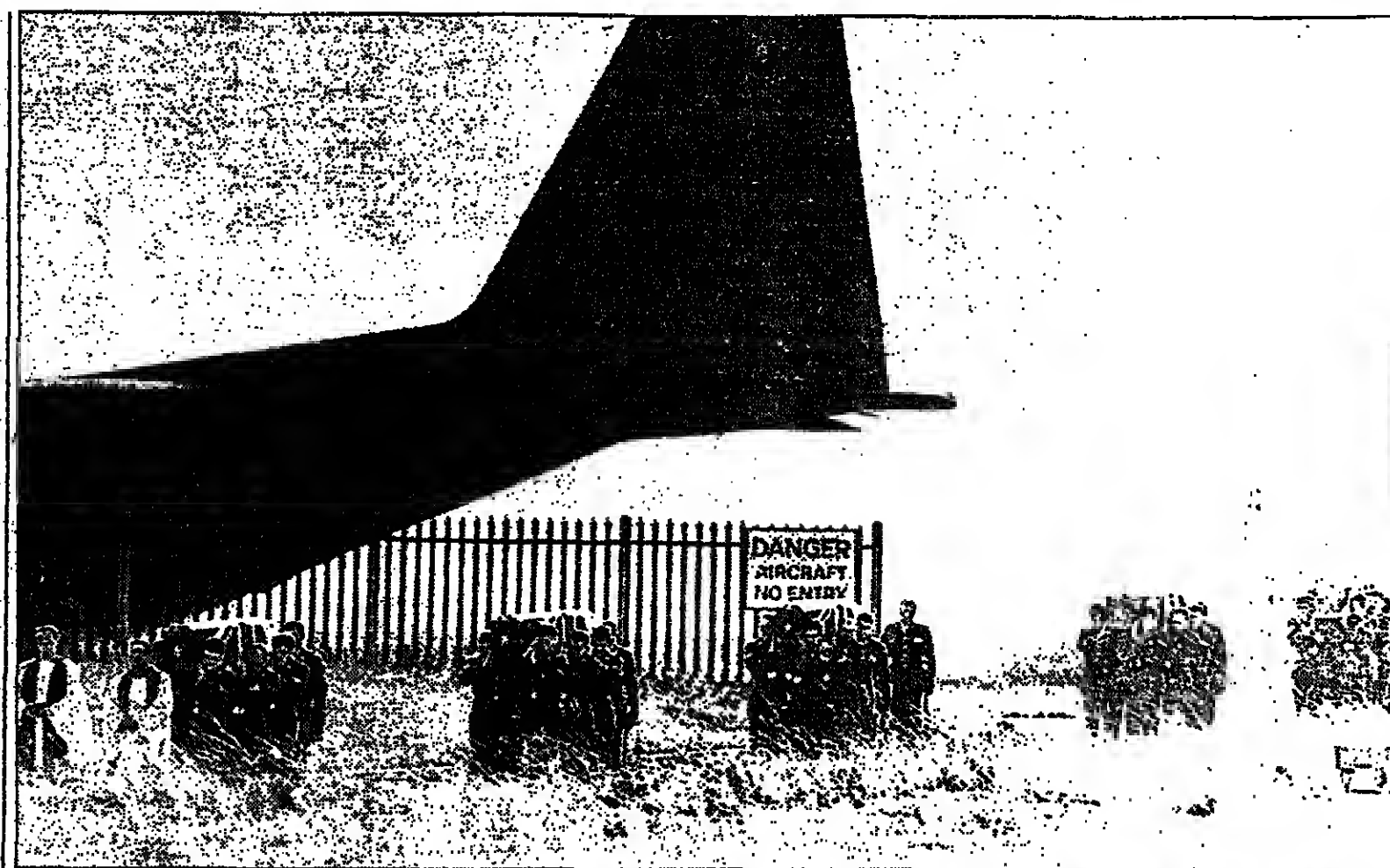
A second section, included at the insistence of four Third World members of the council — Colombia, Cuba, Malaysia and Yemen — calls on Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, to continue his personal efforts to find of peaceful solution. "It is sliced bread and motherhood," said one Western diplomat.

Further pressure was applied to Iraq by the highest-level meeting ever of the five-power council subcommittee, originally intended to command UN forces. The Soviet Union has been pushing for a meeting of chiefs of staff from the five permanent members, and America and France have agreed to send more high-ranking officers to the committee's meetings.

The committee said the meeting would tackle the situation in the Gulf and "activities related to the implementation of the sanctions regime."

President Saddam said in a television interview yesterday that President Bush was closing the door to dialogue by comparing him to Hitler.

"Bizarre" proposal, page 6
Gulf reports, page 8
Gorbachev's tactics and...
Daisy, page 12



Sad return: the bodies of the five King's Regiment soldiers murdered in last Wednesday's IRA car bombing at a Londonderry checkpoint being carried from an RAF Helicopter at Liverpool yesterday. A short service was held in the airport fire station; the first funerals will take place tomorrow

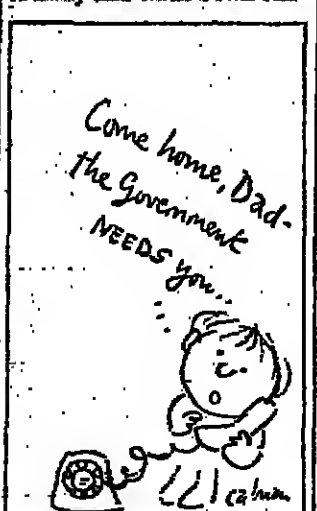
Pursuit of runaway fathers attacked

By JILL SHERMAN AND BILL FROST

THE government's plans to chase up maintenance payments from absent fathers were last night condemned by the Labour party as a use to fill Treasury coffers instead of helping poor families.

The proposals, outlined in a white paper, *Children Come First*, also triggered a clash in the House of Commons when Clare Short accused Tory MPs of fathering children they did not know about.

The white paper gives details of the child support agency that will be set up to identify and track down run-



away parents and set maintenance payments, which would be enforceable through the courts. The agency, which would start operating in 1992, would cost between £100 million to £150 million to set up in the first two years. But in the third year it would save £50 million and in the long term £200 million to £300 million a year, Tony Newton, the social security secretary, told MPs.

Under a formula set out in the paper, fathers would have to pay up to half their disposable income on maintenance while lone mothers would have their benefit docked if they failed to reveal the father's whereabouts.

In addition under new changes to the benefit system single mothers will be given an incentive to go out and work

Continued on page 22, col 5
White paper, page 5
Guilt fathers, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Unrepentant Thatcher will fight on over EMU

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN UNREPENTANT Margaret Thatcher will today insist to MPs that the Rome summit altered nothing and that the battle over the creation of a central bank and the introduction of a single currency before the end of the decade has yet to be fought.

As the unexpected decision of the European Council to set a 1994 deadline for the start of the second stage of economic and monetary union increased fears among Conservative MPs of a split in the party, the government accused the Italian presidency of boudoir Britain into the talks on monetary union for domestic political reasons.

Mrs Thatcher, isolated at Rome, is preparing to take her fight against the imposition of a single currency to the treaty-changing inter-governmental conference (IGC) in seven weeks' time. According to sources close to her, she believes that other EC leaders with doubts about a single currency, who stayed silent at the weekend will be "smoked out" when their national interests are debated.

Last night Dr David Owen backed Mrs Thatcher's opposition to a single currency and criticised the other 11 EC members for forcing the proposal on Britain.

Satisfaction in some EC countries yesterday over the Rome outcome was tempered by doubts over whether Britain had been pushed too far. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was reported to be confident that despite Mrs Thatcher's protestations, Britain would not veto the next stage of European union.

Senior cabinet ministers who back an evolutionary approach to European union,

notably Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and John Major, the chancellor, were clearly furious at the tactics of Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, in forcing the pace on Sunday. British ministers believe the Italian decision, which they believe was designed to make a success of a summit which would otherwise have had little to discuss, has unnecessarily caused difficulties for the IGC and weakened their negotiating hand.

It has had the effect of exposing once again divisions in both Conservative and Labour parties at a time when ministers are trying to take a step-by-step approach and win support in the EC for Mr Major's plan for a hard ecu possibly leading to a common currency. By creating a situation in which both sides have been forced to take hardline stances early on in the discussion their task is harder.

This view was echoed yesterday in Brussels by EC officials who felt the Italians had needlessly alienated Britain. Jacques Delors, the commission president, had warned against forcing Mrs Thatcher into a corner.

Supporters of Mrs Thatcher's line on Europe were privately expressing pleasure yesterday that she had been given an early opportunity to snipe at the single currency.

In a development giving further evidence of divisions on Europe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, will today question the validity of the sovereignty argument that has been used by Mrs Thatcher and others to oppose closer union.

In a statement to the Commons today Mrs Thatcher will make plain her belief that

while the EC cannot agree on a deal to cut farm subsidies, it is ludicrous to put a date on plans for moves to complete economic and monetary union. A senior government source said: "They cannot agree because the two countries with the richest farmers say no. It is unifying. It is not good for the EC. The problem after the Rome summit is not for the prime minister; it is for the community as a whole."

Mrs Thatcher will make plain that she regards the December IGC as the start of a process lasting months. Britain believes that Greece, Spain and Portugal will develop as allies as they begin to understand the problems of a single currency for their troubled economies.

Conservative Euro enthusiasts yesterday voiced dismay over Britain's isolation at Rome and misgivings over the tough language used by Mrs Thatcher. But the prime minister was said to have no regrets.

She discussed the outcome with Sir Geoffrey and Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, at Downing Street yesterday.

Summit aftermath, page 2
Letters, page 13

EC hope on global warming

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN Community environment and energy ministers seemed near to squaring a diplomatic circle last night by reaching a common position on how to counter global warming, in spite of British insistence on a separate national objective for the UK.

The move would give considerable political impetus to the World Climate Conference which opened in Geneva yesterday with the aim of settling the international community on the road to a comprehensive treaty to protect the atmosphere.

After hours of talks in Luxembourg, a clever compromise suggested by Germany seemed likely to accommodate the refusal by Chris Patten and John Wakeham, the environment and energy secretaries, to budge from Britain's stated target of stabilising emissions of the principal greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂) by 2005, in spite of strong pressure from their EC colleagues to agree the European Commission target of 2000, backed by Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and France.

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Curbs sought, page 9
Leading article, page 13

Scholar quits Spurs plc



Irving Scholar has resigned as a non-executive director of Tottenham Hotspur plc, apparently bowing to pressure from the company's bankers. Mr Scholar, the company's largest shareholder, remains as club chairman.

The International Stock Exchange is awaiting clarification from the Tottenham board of the events surrounding dealings between Mr Scholar and Robert Maxwell. The publisher lent £11 million to a private investment company controlled by Mr Scholar, which in turn lent the money to Tottenham. Page 23
Team challenge, page 40

Norway dispute

Norway's Conservative-led coalition resigned yesterday after little more than a year in office because it was unable to resolve an internal dispute over Norwegian relations with the EC. Norway was ready to join the EC in 1972 but changed its mind after a referendum narrowly rejected membership. Page 10

Fines defaulters

The Home Office yesterday announced proposals to allow courts to recoup outstanding fines from defaulters by deducting them from social security payments. Last year 22 per cent of jail sentences were for default. Page 22

Brent talks

Brent Walker, the leisure group founded by former professional boxer George Walker, is in refinancing talks with its bankers over bank debts of almost £128 million which must be repaid over the next 12 months. Page 23

Chess problem

Napoleon said it was too difficult for a game and not serious enough for a science. But is chess a sport, asks Simon Barnes. Page 36

Channel tunnel link-up soon

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT thousand years of physical isolation will come to an end late today or early tomorrow when Channel tunnel construction workers make contact under the English Channel, linking the British Isles with the Continent.

Within the next 24 hours, construction workers operating the French boring machine will excavate the last few yards of chalk to reveal the two-foot bore hole drilled from the British side on Sunday night.

The meeting will be the first stage in a breakthrough process expected to culminate in January when Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister, and Francois Mitterrand, the French president, formally link Britain and France with a subterranean handshake.

The ceremony will come barely a month after construc-

tion workers complete the excavation of a man-sized tunnel between the two tunnel sections, which will make it possible to walk between the two countries for the first time since post-Ice Age rising sea levels severed Britain from the European mainland.

Gordon Crighton, the engineering manager for Transmanche Link (TML), the Anglo-French construction consortium excavating the tunnel, said: "I suppose it will be a great moment in history when we make contact. Actually, it would be a greater moment if we didn't. But we have made so many checks, we are very confident we'll be on target."

The bore hole will be the first tangible evidence that all the technology can deliver the goods.

Sound and fury as the RSC exits, stage left

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's dramatic threats to quit the Barbican Centre's two theatres for good this Saturday have left people fuming in the wings. Dena O'Callaghan, the centre's managing director, who has not been consulted by the RSC board, angrily dismissed the threats as "political posturing" yesterday.

Terry Hands, the RSC's artistic director, said on Sunday that the company would have to leave London and perform only at its Stratford base unless the Arts Council increased its grant. Faced with the prospect of an indefinitely empty theatre, Miss O'Callaghan was sceptical: "They were losing political impact and they had to find a way of renewing it," she said. "I'm convinced they will be back next March, they have

a full programme, and I am not making any alternative plans." She said there had been no discussions with alternative repertory companies, and none was being approached. "The RSC have a lease until 2007 and I'm still working to that," said Miss O'Callaghan, who took over at the Barbican in January.

The RSC announced in the spring that to avoid a deficit of £4.4 million it would abandon its winter season at the Barbican Theatre and The Pit. The company leases the theatres for about £500,000, perhaps a sixth of what it would have to pay in the West End. Attempts to get alternative producers to use the theatre this winter have failed.

The new doubts over the RSC's commitment to the Barbican have not improved already difficult working relationships with the management. Miss O'Callaghan has not been consulted by the RSC board, and she is not taking

further her plans for upgrading backstage conditions at the Barbican Theatre in line with demands from the RSC, which has complained of cramped dressing room conditions.

"I have a shopping list of things I was preparing to do, and I knew where to get the money to do them three months ago, but I am doing nothing until I get a copper-bottomed guarantee that the RSC is going to be there," she said. "I am more concerned that my staff isn't totally demoralised and I have written a letter to each member telling them that we're very sympathetic with the RSC's problems and that we eagerly look forward to them coming back."

Justin de Blank, one of two caterers who recently took over concessions on the Barbican Centre, said: "I think the RSC are behaving appalling, but if people think the Barbican is going to fall apart without them they are wrong."



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TM 12

Thatcher's turn of phrase fails to break the language barrier



Thatcher: her anger did not travel well

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IF THERE was one lesson for the British government in the European summit, it was that English metaphors do not translate easily, and Margaret Thatcher's criticisms of her fellow leaders lost almost all their force because of her choice of phrases.

Her apparent irritation with the Italian presidency, amplified by parts of the British media, passed almost without notice outside Italy. Almost every European newspaper was stumped by Mrs Thatcher's comment that the others were living in cloud cuckoo land in fixing a date for stage two of monetary union without first deciding its sub-

stance. *Le Monde* had a stab at it with "Nous vivons au pays des nuages", and conveyed her combative mood far better than most, showing more warmth than might have been expected. But in most countries her words obscured the meaning rather than illuminating it.

The result was the loss of a key element in understanding the outcome, except in Britain, where few could have failed to understand that Mrs Thatcher intended to veto any change to the Treaty of Rome. Elsewhere, with the exception of *Le Monde*, the British objections tended to be seen as a temporary inconvenience. Several newspapers emphasised that Mrs Thatcher had fought and lost many previous EC battles, but few suggested that

she might prove unmovable. "The splendid isolation of the Iron Lady", a headline in *Le Figaro*, summed up much of the European coverage, but if Mrs Thatcher was trying to say "thus far and no further", few European journalists got the message.

After criticisms in *The Times*, the *Economist* and elsewhere of the Italian presidency, there were some signs of injured pride. The Milan daily *Il Corriere della Sera* took a swipe at the *Economist*, which had compared the presidency to a bus trip with the Marx brothers driving. "The Marx brothers have driven the community bus past the winning post after all," it said, adding that readers of *The Times*, which described it as "a summit without a cause", would be aston-

ished. On the whole criticism of Mrs Thatcher was restrained. German newspapers were unanimous in approving the outcome of the Rome summit, which most had not originally predicted would be very meaningful. Under the headline "Maggie's own goal", the right-wing *Die Welt* said that Mrs Thatcher had simply spelt out in Rome what everyone already knew of her views. Everything was not lost for the British, the paper said, but after Rome they should not underestimate the dynamic for further development. In Madrid, the liberal daily *Diario-16* said that the United Kingdom "favours an almost permanent postponement of monetary and economic union and European political union".

Denmark showed the most sympathy for British views, without sharing them. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the foreign minister, said that by taking such a firm position on monetary union, the summit may have weakened prospects for a deal during the inter-governmental conference in Rome in December.

The Conservative daily *Berlingske Tidende* said the summit had "provoked unnecessary conflict with Britain". In Athens, the opposition daily *Epikhrifiti* noted under the headline "Polite remarks", that despite Britain's opposition, "a significant precedent had been set with regard to decision-making, since the principle of 'unanimity' had been replaced by that of 'majority'". The Belgian papers saw the

summit as a success for Italy. One said the much-criticised "visionary" zeal of the Italians had finally paid off, and it was hoped that "Anglo-Saxon realism" would finally come round to the need for concessions.

Some European governments and newspapers continue to see strong arguments as being out of keeping with a pro-European spirit. Some implied that despite the difficulties a cordial tone had been maintained. Unless Mrs Thatcher's performance at her press conference was entirely different to what she said in the closed meetings, that could scarcely be true.

Letters, page 13

Kohl confident Britain will not block currency union

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE German government is supremely confident now that, whether or not Margaret Thatcher is still prime minister on January 1 1994, Britain will not veto the move to the next stage of European economic and currency union then.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl came away from the Rome summit well pleased with a result that had exceeded his expectations and had convinced him that, despite her protestations, Mrs Thatcher will simply not be able to withstand the dynamic drive for greater integration from leaders of the other 11 European Community countries.

The chancellor was even encouraged by the dissenting paragraphs on monetary union that Britain inserted into the final communiqué. He was satisfied by the fact that, in them, Britain agreed the overriding objective of monetary policy should be price stability, along with an open market system, and a clampdown on budget deficits. The final statement also confirmed that Britain was "ready to move beyond stage one [of the Delors plan] through the creation of a new monetary institution and a common Community currency".

That is all in line with German thinking, and the only substantive point at issue, as Herr Kohl sees it, is the starting date for the new system. Herr Kohl has been anxious to press ahead quickly for two reasons. He wants to calm French fears that a united Germany is losing interest in the EC, and, even more urgently, he wants the Twelve to be knit together tightly before the EC can be watered down into a kind of free-trade area through the admission of prospective new members such as Sweden, Norway and Austria.

He realises that applications from democratic countries cannot be kept waiting too long and therefore believes that the present members must reach agreement about the EC's future role before an enlargement makes the negotiations more complicated.

Since Britain has made it clear that it will not leave an empty chair at the negotiating table but will participate fully, officials in the chancellery and the foreign ministry in Bonn believe that there will inevitably be a meeting of minds. A parallel is drawn with negotiations five years ago for the

Single European Act, which Britain ultimately signed. With agreement by the 11 on the 1994 date and the mood for integration strong among them, Herr Kohl feels sure that even if Mrs Thatcher does not want to join in full monetary union, she will be ready to concur if a way can be found to protect her view of British interests without forcing her to use a blocking veto.

One idea being pushed by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, is for Britain to be given a special status within the EC that would allow it to stay out of any agreement on monetary union for an indefinite transitional period. That would make it possible for the others to implement monetary union between them and allow Britain to join at any time, if it wanted to, without further negotiation. It would not be a "two-speed Europe" in that Britain would be fully involved in the negotiations and would have to approve the conditions for it along with all the other members. Subsequently, it would not be obliged to be bound by the regulations.

The German position, masterminded by the Bundesbank, is that monetary union can only be established once a series of conditions are met. The most important is that the proposed central European bank needed to run it must be totally independent of any government influence and that central funds can never be used to help pay deficits in any member country's budget.

The contentious issue, in which there is some Bundesbank sympathy for British arguments, is that of setting up a common currency. The Bundesbank insists that nothing must be done that makes the coin in people's pockets less stable than the Deutschmark. This is an almost impossible condition to meet if inflation levels anywhere are as high as those in Britain now.

Some thought is being given to turning onto its head the British case for a "hard ecu" to be used parallel with national currencies. Under this idea, only countries that were economically stable would be allowed to use the ecu. Other countries would be obliged to go on using their old currency until their economic performance entitled them to move over to a common currency.



Flying visit: President Cossiga of Italy at the controls of a Tornado jet fighter during a visit to the RAF station at Cottesmore, Leicestershire, yesterday. He is making a tour of Europe while Italy holds the rotating presidency of the European Commission

Howe jibes highlight sovereignty divisions

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND RICHARD FORD

SIR GEOFFREY Howe today again highlights divisions within the government over the European Community by questioning the validity of the sovereignty argument used by Mrs Thatcher and others to oppose closer EC union.

The deputy prime minister derides some of the talk of parliamentary sovereignty as "only partly useful in explaining what occurs in the real world of British politics".

In an article in today's issue of *International Affairs* which will infuriate the Conservative party's Euro-skeptics, Sir Geoffrey argues that "sovereignty is not virginity, which you either have or you don't", and insists that it is something which can be divided and exploited in the interests of the nation.

The prime minister has constantly proclaimed the need to

protect the sovereignty of British institutions in her battle against efforts by M Jacques Delors and others to push forward economic and political union in the EC. Sir Geoffrey names his targets in the article as the arguments put forward by the EC opponents Enoch Powell and Peter Shore. Few in the Tory party, however, will doubt that he had in mind a target much closer to home - Mrs Thatcher.

There have already been calls for Sir Geoffrey's dismissal by the secretary of the Thatcherite Bruges Group.

They came after the deputy prime minister's television interview on Sunday during which he reminded viewers pointedly that Mrs Thatcher, currently adamantly opposed to a single European currency, had previously been opposed also to entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the

European Monetary System but had changed her mind, as he and Nigel Lawson had done rather earlier.

In his article, Sir Geoffrey says: "The sort of absolutist definition of sovereignty advocated for example by Enoch Powell or Peter Shore when we debated membership of the European Community and after has a strangely un-British ring."

He asserts that the British have traditionally seen sovereignty as "a good servant but a bad master", and says that classic concepts of state sovereignty "can sometimes lead even experienced observers to deny in the name of theory the reality of flexibility and diversity that exists before one's eyes".

Sir Geoffrey even invokes Mrs Thatcher's hero, Winston Churchill, in favour of trading some of Britain's sovereignty for the benefits of EC co-operation, quoting

him as saying that the coming together of Europe "involves some sacrifice or merger of national sovereignty" and that it should be regarded as "the gradual assumption by all the nations concerned of that larger sovereignty".

Sir Geoffrey has been more and more openly at odds with Mrs Thatcher since she deprived him of the post of foreign secretary. He has become a master in his speeches and articles of pursuing a subtly different line from that of the government on matters European without doing anything sufficient to jeopardise his place in the cabinet.

Downing Street was yesterday said to be happy to live with Sir Geoffrey's weekend remarks, but will no doubt be studying today's article with added interest.

Yesterday, Sir Leon Brittan, one of Britain's EC commissioners, said that the UK could wait until nearer 1994 before deciding whether to join its partners in the EC in moves towards closer economic and monetary union.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, he suggested that his proposal could form the basis of an agreement between Britain and the eleven other EC countries at conferences to be held in Rome in December.

He said: "It may yet be possible to reach an agreement on the lines that those who want to go ahead in 1994 and anybody who is still a bit reluctant can decide nearer the time in a fresh parliament whether they want to join or not".

EC team flies to soothe farm cuts row

TWO Italian ministers and a team of top negotiators from Brussels began a whirlwind tour of European Community capitals today to try to solve the EC's acrimonious dispute over cuts in farm price subsidies (Peter Gifford writes from Brussels).

The summit meeting of government leaders in Rome ended in disarray on Sunday after Chancellor Kohl of Germany and President Mitterrand of France said that radical cuts of 30 per cent

over three years posed too great a threat to the livelihood of their farmers unless accompanied by adequate compensatory measures.

Vito Saccomandi, the Italian farm minister, and Renato Ruggiero, the foreign-trade minister, arrived in Bonn this morning, with other EC advisers, for the first stop on their week-long tour, which

will culminate in a further meeting of the EC's farm and foreign trade ministers in Brussels

next Monday. There is no guarantee, however, that even such a prepared gathering will succeed. In the last few weeks six ministerial meetings have already collapsed and one summit meeting has ended in recrimination over how to reduce support for Europe's ten million farmers.

The EC's failure to agree even an initial negotiating offer for the Gatt round of world talks has brought the talks to the brink of collapse.

Haughey in talks to avert 'Dublingate' election

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, last night held talks with Des O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, in an attempt to strike a deal preventing a general election over the "Dublingate" affair.

Mr Haughey has resolutely stood by Brian Lenihan, his deputy prime minister, defence minister and Fianna Fail presidential candidate, who is at the centre of a serious crisis over allegations that he deceived the nation about his role in an attempt to influence a decision of the Irish president in January 1982.

The future of the 15 month Fianna Fail-PD coalition rests with Mr O'Malley, who could

choose to vote against the government on a no-confidence motion due to be debated in the Dail tomorrow. The coalition, which gives the PDs two seats in cabinet, normally has a majority of only one in parliament.

Mr O'Malley is expected to seek a compromise aimed at preventing a general election while at the same time emphasising that the alleged wrongdoing of Mr Lenihan is a Fianna Fail matter, not associated with the PDs.

Among the options expected to have been discussed at the talks at Mr Haughey's home were postponing the no confidence motion until after the presidential election a week tomorrow, or for Mr

O'Malley to insist that Mr Lenihan resigns his cabinet position either before the election or on the election day, whether he wins or not. So far Mr Haughey has rejected suggestions that his deputy should resign, prompting some observers to predict that an election may be inevitable.

The affair has placed Mr O'Malley and his small party of "mould breakers" in a difficult position. The party was formed in 1985 mostly among Fianna Fail dissidents. Some in its dwindling ranks would find anything short of voting against the government tomorrow totally hypocritical and against everything that the party has stood for. But others, probably the majority, point out that a general election would be to no one's advantage. The PDs could face destruction by the electorate in an election. Support for the party is estimated at only 3 per cent after a steady decline since it won 14 seats in 1987.

PD strategists are generally happy with how the coalition has worked over the last 12 months and point out that it is addressing a number of key party objectives which it would be a pity to place in jeopardy, such as tax reform, privatisation and environmental protection measures.

The Northern Ireland office said yesterday that one ounce of explosives and wiring were found at Maghaberry Prison in Co Antrim during a planned search on Sunday.

Gales recede as first snow fall recorded

By RAY CLANCY

HOUSEHOLDERS in Northern Ireland were still mopping up yesterday as a result of the weekend floods as weathermen confirmed that all danger of severe winds had receded. Conditions will remain wintry, however, for the rest of the week.

Temperatures are expected to stay a few degrees below normal and snow has been forecast over mountains in Scotland, with sleet on high ground in the north and Wales. The first snow of winter in England was recorded on the M62 between Manchester and Yorkshire late yesterday afternoon.

The London weather centre said that the depression which it thought would bring strong gales had blown itself out across Europe. Strong gusts of up to 85mph might still materialise in some areas and heavy rain in the south could turn into hail and thunder storms.

The body of a land officer was found yesterday in a flooded river outside Ballycastle, Co Antrim. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said that Neil Mahoney was last seen on Sunday morning.

The flooded area around Ballycastle and Cushendall was visited yesterday by Lord Skelmersdale, parliamentary under-secretary for Northern Ireland with responsibility for agriculture and health. In Canterbury, Kent, shops and houses were also affected by flood water.

Forecast, page 22



Bang on three: Lieutenant Commander Tom Sargent primes one of several miniature antique cannons to mark the opening of a new business centre in London's Surrey docks. He is watched by Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary, behind him in the centre, Alan Porter, the chairman of London Industrial, left, and Mr Lilley's press secretary. Mr Sargent was the man who fired the same cannons to mark the closing of the docks 20 years ago (Lia Jenkins writes).

However, as Mr Lilley emerged from a cloud of smoke after the cannons were fired, he looked somewhat shocked and it was clear he had been hit by the spent gunpowder. The Department of Trade and Industry was last night playing down the incident and insisted that Mr Lilley had not been hurt.

London Industrial and English Estates who funded the £30 million development to provide 42 workshops and offices for new small businesses jointly, were clearly pleased that the incident merited publicity. Lisa Denning, spokeswoman for London Industrial, said: "We would not have received any coverage if not for poor Mr Lilley's face."

Pan Am staff saw no one before bomb

HEATHROW baggage handlers yesterday told the enquiry into the Lockerbie air disaster that they had not seen anyone who might have been an imposter on the day of the crash.

The sister of one of the airline stewardesses killed had raised the possibility that an intruder could have got on to the tarmac. Amarjit Singh Sidhu, a loader/driver for Pan Am, said that he would have checked anyone on the tarmac that he did not recognise.

The enquiry continues today.

Fish declared safe

Fish from the sea around Britain's nuclear sites, including Sellafield, Cumbria, have not been subjected to dangerous levels of radiation, the agriculture ministry said yesterday, but its findings were immediately contested by the environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth, who claimed the ministry's calculations were based on outdated figures.

Prince on duty

The Prince of Wales is to resume public duties after a four-month absence. He has reportedly made good progress after an operation last month following a fall from a polo pony in June, in which he fractured his arm in two places. Tomorrow he will take a party of Muslim community leaders and Anglican clergymen to visit the Marylebone Centre in London, of which he is patron.

لندن 30 أكتوبر 1990

Outburst as boxing fan tells Marsh trial of chase after shooting

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BOXING enthusiast yesterday described how he came face-to-face with a would-be assassin, resembling Terry Marsh, the boxer, only minutes after the shooting of Frank Warren.

William Hawes, aged 69, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had been waiting for a friend outside the Broadway theatre in Barking, east London, before going in to watch a boxing promotion. A man ran up and stopped beside him and passed for about four seconds, raising both arms excitedly in the air before running off again as another man arrived in pursuit.

Mr Hawes agreed, however, that it was not until almost two months later, the day after the arrest of Mr Marsh, the former world light welter-weight champion, that he made a statement about the resemblance between Mr Marsh and the man that the prosecution claims was the gunman.

He agreed that he had said in an earlier statement, three days after the shooting on November 30 last year, that he clearly saw the man's face and conceded that it was only during Christmas that he realised the resemblance with the boxer.

Heated exchanges followed during cross-examination by Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Marsh, who has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder.

Mr Hawes admitted that he told police initially that it was Rodney Marsh, the former England foot-



Marsh: denies charge of attempted murder

baller, who looked like the alleged gunman, but added that that was "a silly mistake".

The jury was told that the attacker's mask had slipped down as he fled the scene of the shooting, allowing Mr Hawes to see him. Mr Hawes told the jury: "He resembled Terry Marsh. I couldn't say it was him. I was just saying he had something that looked like Terry Marsh."

He agreed that Det Sergeant Michael Carroll, who was involved in the case, had given him three complimentary tickets to a Frank Warren boxing promotion on St Valentine's day, but said that it was after he had given his second statement to police.

Mr Hawes was involved in an

angry outburst when Mr Ferguson asked him about being in trouble with the police before. After Mr Justice Fennell told him to compose himself, Mr Hawes agreed that he had been convicted of larceny in 1950.

There was a second outburst after Mr Ferguson suggested that he had told a friend, Jimmy Walker, that he hoped to obtain money for giving evidence against Mr Marsh. Shooting at Mr Walker, who was sitting in court, Mr Hawes said: "I am ashamed of you Jimmy. You call yourself a friend?"

Mr Ferguson suggested that Mr Hawes had told Mr Walker that he should give evidence against Mr Marsh and that it would be worth "a few bob to you". This was vehemently denied by the witness.

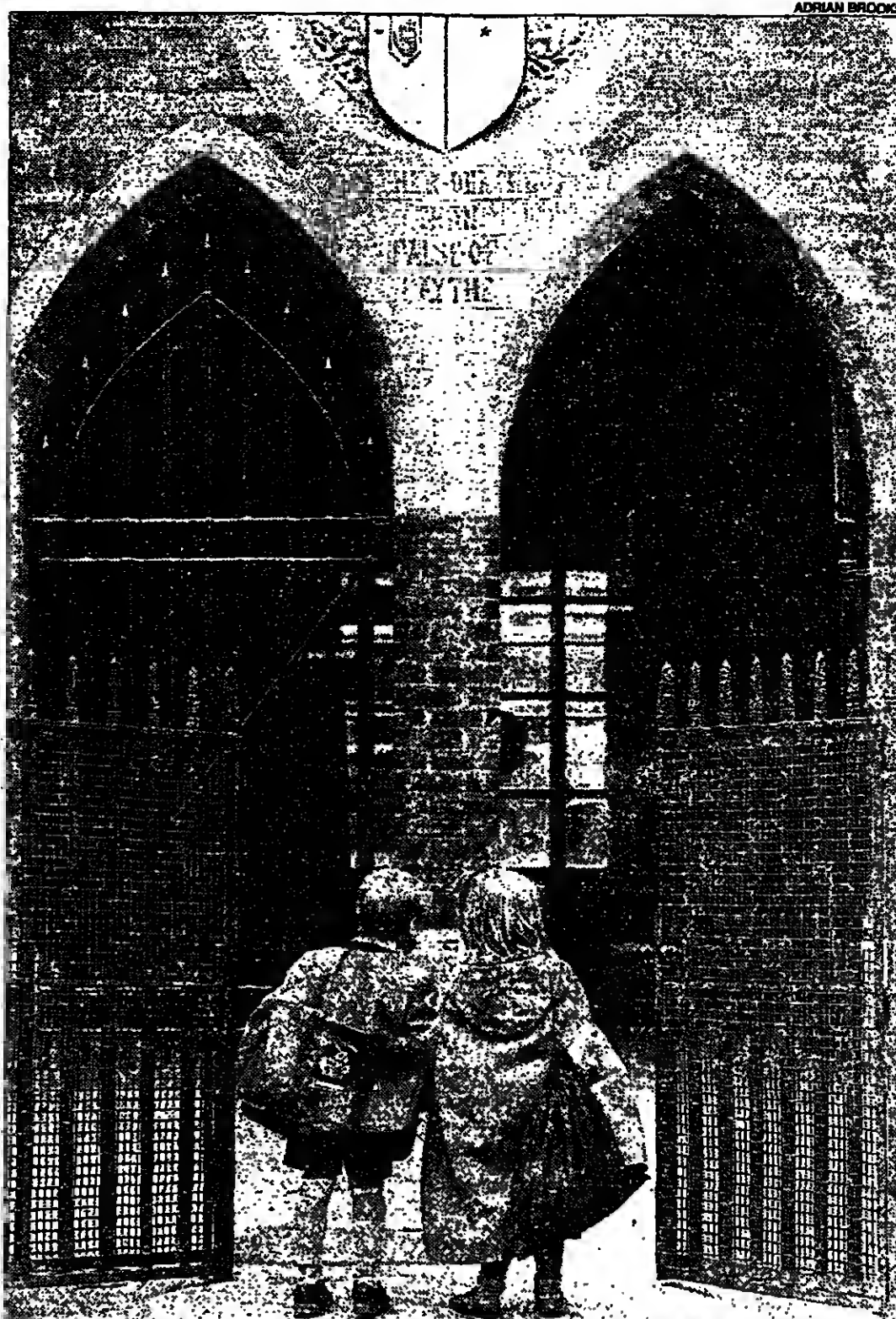
Sergeant Carroll told the court that he gave complimentary tickets for a Frank Warren promotion to Mr Hawes about three days before the February 14 tournament. He denied, however, that he did so to "keep Mr Hawes sweet" and said that it was simply a gesture because he was a boxing fan to whom he was sympathetic.

Det Inspector Peter Wiggins said that he arrested Mr Marsh at Gatwick Airport on January 17 this year as the boxer returned from a trip to the United States. On the journey to London, Mr Marsh allegedly suggested that it was after he had given his second statement to police.

The officer told the court that the boxer remarked in the car: "I had some aggro with her just before I left. She became hysterical and tried to stab me. I stepped back and she cut my trousers. She tried to get the baby back. I had to call the locals. She was screaming at them that I shot Frank Warren."

Mr Wiggins had replied that it was not any intervention by Mrs Marsh that had led to Mr Marsh's arrest but identification of him as he ran from the scene of the shooting.

The trial continues today.



Bridging the divide: Tom Walker and Kate Roby, both aged four, arriving for the first time at their new school premises in Battersea yesterday. Thomas's London Day Schools has moved one of its independent co-educational preparatory day schools from north of the Thames, in Cadogan Gardens off Sloane Square, to a former state school building south of the river.

Poll tax workers strike over redundancy proposal

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE poll tax staff of the London borough of Haringey went on indefinite strike yesterday in protest at plans to make nine colleagues redundant.

The Labour-controlled council is cutting 650 jobs from its 9,000 workforce as part of cost-cutting measures to save £10 million as a result of poll-tax capping.

A total of 296 have opted for voluntary severance or early retirement and 150 have been redeployed to vacant posts within the council. Redundancy notices have been issued to 14, and five have agreed severance terms.

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) has said, however, that it will step up the strike by calling out staff in other departments if the council does not agree to offer alternative jobs to the remaining nine members of staff. By calling all 153 members of the poll tax staff out on strike, the union said that it hopes to bring about a quick end to the disagreement.

A prolonged dispute with the government over capping meant that the council did not send out its final poll tax bills until earlier this month. By October 11 it had collected payments from only 58 per cent of residents.

Yesterday, Nalgo accused the council of going back on an agreement to redeploy surplus staff to vacant posts. The union said that there were 200 unfilled vacancies and ample scope for the nine staff to be found new jobs.

A council spokesman said that the nine people were considered unsuitable for any of the posts at present available. "We have been to considerable lengths to find these people jobs, and efforts will continue right up to the point at which their notice expires," he said. If the strike continued for any length of time, there was a risk that more jobs would be lost because of shortfalls in poll tax income, he added.

David Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East and a prominent anti-poll tax campaigner, appeared in court yesterday for refusing to pay his £394 community charge bill (Craig Seton writes).

Coventry magistrates issued a liability order against Mr Nellist for the outstanding amount of poll tax owed, plus £17 costs. After the hearing, he said he would continue to withhold payment of the poll tax and that, if bailiffs were sent, he would refuse to let them in.

100 village post offices in Cornwall are under threat because of the poll tax and new business rate, according to a survey by the Cornish Liberal Democrats (Ray Clancy writes).

The survey of almost 200 sub post offices found that 95 per cent faced higher bills, with one in 20 paying four times more than under the former rates system. Two out of every five people running sub post offices said that they might give them up because their bills had doubled, the study showed. The Post Office said that it was aware of the problems, and that representations had been made to the Inland Revenue and the industry department, and that part exemptions were now being considered for some.

Laser makes light of fear of the dentist

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ANXIOUS patients whose fear of the dentist has allowed their teeth to decay for years are beating a path to the door of Louise Davidson, a dentist in St Andrews in Fife, who is the first in Britain to install a laser to carry out many dental operations.

The laser treatment, described as the greatest revolution in dentistry since the high-speed drill, is painless, requires no injection, and produces no vibration.

Miss Davidson said her patients have described the treatment as "brilliant" and "magical", not words often used about dental surgery, and have come to consult her from as far afield as Cheshire and the north of Scotland.

"People who are afraid of conventional dentistry and have not been to a dentist for up to 35 years are now making appointments," said Miss Davidson, who installed her system after seeing it demonstrated in Edinburgh by its manufacturers, the American Dental Laser Corporation.

The system works by focusing an intense beam of light from a neodymium:yttrium-aluminium-garnet laser on to the tooth emitting a series of pulses, and the intense but brief heating effect causes the decay in a tooth to vaporise. For some reason which is not fully understood, the frequency of the laser radiation anaesthetises the teeth, dispensing with the need for injections. Dentist, nurses and patient wear

special glasses with green lenses to protect their eyes from accidental exposure to the laser.

The system has not completely replaced the high-speed drill, but can be used for removing decay, for anaesthetising teeth before bridge work or other operations, and for minor oral surgery such as removal of excess gum tissue. It costs £35,000, and consists of a box similar in appearance to a night storage heater, which feeds the laser beam through a flexible tube to an end piece rather like a conventional drill. The beam can be focused to a point only one third of a millimetre across.

Miss Davidson, who believes that the laser will change dentistry just as dramatically as the high-speed drill, had her laser drill installed four months ago, and has now begun demonstrating it to other dentists. She believes that in the long run most surgeries will have to invest in a similar system. "It is expensive," she admitted, "but I wanted to be a pioneer and if that's the price I'm willing to pay it."

Miss Davidson, a graduate of Dundee University and in practice in St Andrews for 13 years, has now started training other dentists in the use of the laser equipment. They watch the laser in action and ask the patients what they think of it, and so far, are getting very positive responses, particularly from those who suffer from "needle phobia" and have a fear of injections.

Wimpey fraud claim enquiry

By ROSS TITMAN AND RONALD FAUX

AN INTERNAL enquiry has been launched by George Wimpey, the construction group, into its relationship with Settle, a public relations company run by Derek Hatton, Liverpool city council's deputy leader.

Mr Hatton insisted yesterday his connection with the firm was a normal business arrangement and said that he had severed his links with Millant, the left-wing organisation, and that he had not been involved in any illegal deals.

Mr Hatton was one of 22 people arrested and questioned by police in raids last Friday into alleged fraud, corruption and false accounting.

Alan Worthington, managing director of Wimpey North West, part of the company's construction division, was among 22 people arrested and subsequently released by police investigating land deals and the award of planning consents in the Merseyside area. His predecessor, Geoffrey Slater, was also arrested.

The Wimpey investigation was

launched after a meeting in London of the main Wimpey board, chaired by Sir Clifford Chetwood, and attended by company lawyers. In a statement yesterday, the company said: "The Wimpey Group's requirement is one of complete integrity and honesty at all levels of our business dealings and we are therefore seriously concerned at recent press allegations and police action."

Mr Hatton dismissed as blatant lies reports that he had given money from land deals to Millant. His connection with the organisation ended, he said, when he ceased to be a councillor in Liverpool and started up his public relations and property development consultancy called Settle.

He said there had been "certain fundamental disagreements" between himself and Millant. "I don't want to know," he said.

Mr Hatton said the publicity surrounding the police investigation was a threat to his business

and made life difficult. "Whether or not it will actually threaten our ability to survive is another matter," he said.

Mr Hatton said he had told police that he would offer any services he could to assist the inquiry. "My papers, my bank accounts, my solicitor's information, any records I have got have already been offered to the police to assist them."

He said that there was no way he would ever be involved in corruption.

Mersey Militant said yesterday that the investigation was a smear campaign against the organisation. Richard Venton, Militant spokesman, said that Mr Hatton had not donated to Militant in recent years and that the organisation was willing to show its accounts to the public. The land deals inquiry was a "politically motivated operation designed to smear the left and militant in particular," he said, adding that the organisation's funds came entirely from donations from ordinary workers and youths.

Mob stones police and firemen

By CRAIG SETON

POLICE said yesterday that there was no apparent motive for three nights of disorder in Walsall, West Midlands, after the latest incident in which 100 officers in riot gear were attacked by a mob that set fire to a car and hurled stones at fire crews.

An estimated 50 youths were involved in disturbances that continued into early yesterday on a council housing estate in the Coalpoth district of Walsall. A fireman received an eye injury when a brick shattered the windscreen of an appliance that had been called to the blazing car. The fire service said their vehicle was hit at least 30 times by missiles.

The disturbances began on Friday night when a police car was attacked and damaged. They continued on Saturday when more than 20 youths stoned police and a fire engine after a suspected drink-driver was stopped.

BR dispute could end today

By TIM JONES
EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail management and union leaders are today hoping to resolve a dispute which resulted yesterday in the cancellation of dozens of local and InterCity train services from Manchester.

The dispute, which resulted in big rush-hour traffic jams in the city, stemmed from a failure to agree over new working rosters.

In another development, Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers' Union, said a separate budget should be set up to finance safety work on the railways. He said it was intolerable that passengers should have to pay for higher safety standards through excessive fare rises.

Bill Morris, the transport workers' union deputy general secretary, said the public had an overriding impression that costs were being cut on transport safety.



Shelley Riseman, aged 20, who went to work without her season ticket, hands over her £10 fine

Commuters derailed by on-the-spot fines

By PETER VICTOR

ANGER, dismay and tears greeted the launch yesterday of British Rail's crackdown on passengers travelling without tickets on the London-Tilbury-Southend commuter line. A squad of collectors started duty at 5.30am at Fenchurch Street station, ready to levy £10 on-the-spot fines. Within four minutes they had claimed their first. By 9am more than 80 commuters had been fined.

One woman burst into tears after parting with her £10 and rushed off saying she was late for a hospital appointment. Andrew Bristow, aged 25, from Grays in Essex, handed over his £10 and stormed off after telling the ticket collector to "stick it".

Mr Bristow and Lynne Moody, aged 22, also from Grays, had caught the train on a shopping trip so he could buy her a birthday present. "The train had pulled in and there was a queue, so I ran ahead and caught it," Mr Moody said. "I got my money out to pay my fare at this end and the man at the barrier said I had to pay £10."

Miss Moody, who has a £1,100 season ticket, said she had seen no

publicity for the new fines. "It's the first I've heard of it. I travel to Fenchurch Street every day and I've never noticed these posters on the walls. If they've publicised it, I don't know where."

Less fortunate was Linda Benn, who had forgotten her £700 annual season ticket. She said she was out going to pay the fine on top of what she had already paid. "If I have to be the first person to go to court because of it then I will. A simple phone call to my local station would prove that I hold a season ticket."

British Rail's Anglia region has spent £60,000 on automatic ticket machines. Yesterday it said no one should be travelling without a ticket, or a five-pence authority-to-travel voucher. Persistent offenders who do not pay the fines will face criminal prosecution for fare evasion. The region hopes in this way to recoup some of the £5 million it loses annually in unpaid fares. If the scheme is successful it will be extended to the rest of the regional network, which loses £35 million a year.

BR said that three quarters of

those stopped yesterday parted with their money on the spot. The passengers, however, were less delighted.

Brian Tibbenham, an employee of Chase Manhattan Bank, travelled in from Upminster on his annual season ticket. Although not fined he demanded to know from BR management why the scheme did not work both ways as he was "bloody cross" about it. "Since we can be fined for travelling on your trains without paying beforehand, will we be able to demand compensation every time we are made late, or the train fails to turn up, or when it is dirty?"

Ken Bird, divisional director of the London-Tilbury-Southend line, said the scheme was also meant to be a reminder that people should carry their season tickets. "It's like going to West Ham and saying 'I have got a season ticket, I've just forgotten it.' I wouldn't get away with it, would I? I don't think we're being unreasonable in asking people to have a ticket."

One potential problem is that the line is a regular route home for

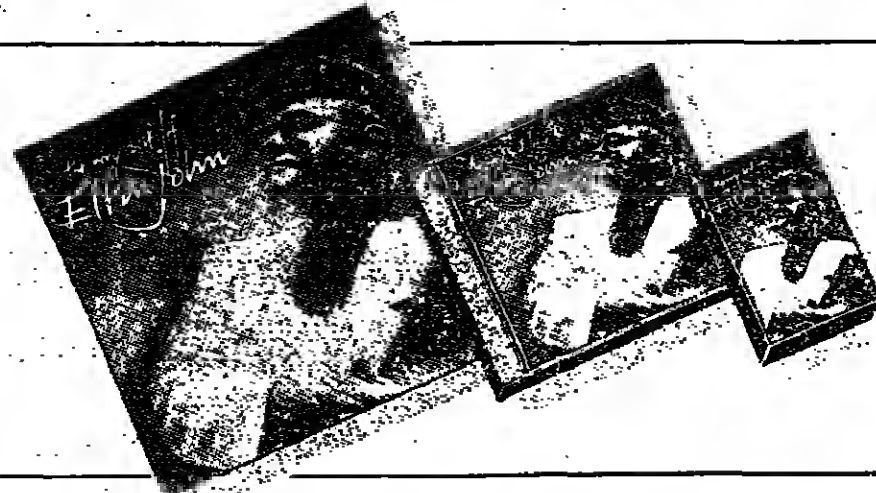
Essex lager louts. Those without tickets are unlikely to take kindly to demands for £10. Mr Bird said that such passengers were troublesome, and his staff would have to exercise their discretion.

Disgruntled rail travellers will have a chance for revenge under a scheme announced yesterday in which commuters will keep a travel diary of train delays so that British Rail can be asked for compensation, or even be taken to court (Nicholas Watt writes).

The Consumers' Association, which launched the exercise, said it was not BR bashing. The aim, nevertheless, was to expose the unfairness and potential invalidity of BR's potential catch-all conditions of carriage. An association spokesman claimed BR's blanket exclusion of liability under its conditions of carriage was unreasonable.

The association urged season ticket holders to log their journeys to and from work for two months to build up a picture of BR's services. This would help angry commuters to take BR to court if it did not pay them compensation.

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CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE WHITE PAPER

Agency will trace runaway fathers to make them pay

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

THE prime minister's determination to crack down on absent parents who try to escape their financial obligations was spelt out in yesterday's white paper, *Children Come First*.

The government has made clear that the parent who leaves the family, usually the father, will have to retain financial responsibility for his children irrespective of his future circumstances. It plans to ensure that by establishing a child support agency which will have powers to identify and trace absent parents and set maintenance levels according to a complex formula which takes both parents' income into account. In some cases the caring parent, usually the mother, will also have to contribute to maintenance. The government hopes to circumvent long and expensive court cases through the use of the agency, although decisions about who should have the family home and maintenance payments for spouses will be outside its remit. The white paper also proposes changes to the social security benefit rules to encourage lone parents to take up work and to reward lone parents who have jobs.

The policy, which discriminates against the break-up of the first family home and may unfairly burden a second relationship, is the government's solution to stem the mounting social security payments to lone parents. Non-working lone mothers on income support will not benefit. Any maintenance payments chased up for them will go to the Treasury. Those who are working will get a £15 disregard, but welfare organ-

isations claim this is not enough to lift families out of poverty. Over the past decade the number of single parents has risen by 141 per cent to 1.2 million, with the greatest increase among unmarried mothers. The cost of child support through income-related benefits has risen from £1.4 billion in 1981-2 to £3.2 billion in 1988-9. Only a quarter of lone parents receiving income support now receive maintenance payments from their children's fathers, however, compared with 50 per cent in 1979. The level of payment has also varied widely, with an average weekly award of £18 a week for an only child. Weekly state benefit to the mother and child is about £50 a week.

Announcing the proposals in the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said the aim was to give priority to the welfare of children and to highlight their parents' responsibility for ensuring it. "Government cannot ensure that families stay together," he said. "But we can and should ensure that parents make proper financial provision for their children whenever it can reasonably be expected."

The white paper underlines that philosophy further, claiming that the new proposals are an integral part of the government's review and reform of the family justice system, which includes the Children Act. Seven out of ten absent parents fail to make maintenance payment, placing the financial responsibility for caring for their children on other taxpayers, many of whom are raising families of their own, the paper says. The present system, largely based on discretion, which is operated through hundreds of courts and hundreds of social security offices, was unnecessarily fragmented, slow and ineffective. "The cumulative effect is uncertainty and inconsistent decisions about how much maintenance should be paid."

In one example, two fathers both earned £150 a week and each had one child to maintain. One was required to pay £5 and the other £50 a week. There seemed to be a going rate of £18 for maintenance even though that would be well short of the costs to care for a child, the paper says. Under the new system the government expects average awards to rise to £45 a week, a similar level to the benefits it now pays out.

Once the child support agency is established all claims for maintenance and reviews for maintenance will be handled by the agency and not by the courts. The courts will retain jurisdiction for property issues.

Malcolm Wicks, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Lord Mackay: "Priority to welfare of children"

HOW SUMS ARE CALCULATED

Income must be shared equally with children

By Our Social Services Correspondent

ABSENTEE fathers will have to pay up to one third of their net income or 50 per cent of their disposable income in child maintenance payments, according to the white paper.

The document shows that fathers will be expected to share their net income equally with their children once "exempt income", which includes housing costs and a personal allowance, is taken into account. The payments are expected to cover a "maintenance bill" to pay for the day-to-day living expenses of the children.

Maintenance payments for children from a first marriage or relationship will not normally be affected if the father subsequently remarries and has stepchildren. They may however drop if the father has further natural children. Payments will not be affected by the income of the second wife or partner.

The government has decided to protect both the poorest and the richest fathers from the full impact of the formula. No parent will be expected to pay so much that his own income falls close to or below benefit levels. As the father's income increases, however, the formula will be reviewed and updated. If the father has met the maintenance bill with considerably less than half his disposable income he will be expected to pay a further 15 per cent of his assessable income.

If the mother who is caring for the children is working she may also have to pay up to 50 per cent of her disposable income towards their maintenance. If she is the absentee parent she will be assessed on the maintenance formula set out in the white paper and have to make appropriate payments.

The government recognises that there will be incentives for fathers to have high mortgages or to find other ways of reducing their disposable income. "Because exempt income is

a first charge on available income and therefore takes precedence over the payment of maintenance, it is right to exclude any unreasonably high housing costs." If they were included the liable person's housing costs would be met at the expense of the children, the paper says. Ministers are looking at that further but the white paper shows that in those cases the absent father should choose how much to spend on housing after maintenance had been paid and not before.

The paper indicates that 50 per cent of superannuation contributions which absent parents make towards their pensions may also be taken into account.

The white paper gives an example of Marie and David, who have separated. Their two children live with Marie. The weekly maintenance bill for the children amounts to:

Child allowances	£24.70
(£12.35 each child under 11)	
Family premium	£7.35
Lone parent premium	£4.10
Parent as carer	£36.70
(adult personal allowance)	
Less child benefit	£14.50
(£7.25 for each child)	
Maintenance bill	£58.35
David lives alone in rented accommodation. His exempt income is:	
Personal allowance	£36.70
Housing cost	£31.00
Total	£67.70
David's net income is £160. After his exempt income is deducted his assessable income is £92. He will pay 50 per cent of this in maintenance or £46 a week (which represents 28.8 per cent of his net income). He keeps £14 for himself.	
If his income goes up to £200 a week and his mortgage payments to £55 a week, he will have to pay £54 a week. If Marie is also working and earning £150 a week, she will contribute £10 a week, which is 50 per cent of her assessable income, towards the maintenance bill.	

AGENCY POWERS

Chasing the money to help 200,000 more parents

THE decision to penalise single parents financially for failing to provide the new child support agency with information about the absent parent is an important proposal in the white paper (Jill Sherman writes). Lone parents risk losing £7.35 a week if they fail to claim maintenance or refuse to provide the address of the absent parent "in circumstances where there is no good cause not to claim maintenance." In these cases the social security department will be empowered to reduce income support or family credit payments to the caring parent by 20 per cent of the income support adult allowance.

This decision would be taken only after the caring parent had been interviewed by a senior officer with specialised training. Lone parents would be exempted from penalties if there was good reason for the mother not to have contact with the absentee

father. "Such instances might be when the child has been conceived as the result of rape or where there had been incest," the paper says.

The new child support agency will be set up within the social security department as a Next Steps Agency. The social security secretary will be accountable to Parliament for the running and financing of the agency and will set targets for its performance. When it is fully operational it is expected that up to 200,000 more lone parents will receive maintenance regularly and about 50,000 caring families will come off benefit.

The child support agency will identify and trace liable parents if their whereabouts is known, and obtain information on the incomes and circumstances of the parents of the child for whom maintenance is claimed. It will then calculate the maintenance to be paid, notify both parents of the assessment, and arrange a

suitable method of payment. In addition the agency will have to record and monitor the payments and take enforcement action when payments are not made.

Payments can be by cheque, standing order, deduction of earnings or cash in a bank. To chase non-payment the agency will be able to change the method of payment or order distraint of goods, so that the absent parent would have to sell goods to pay off his debt. If these methods fail the agency can apply to the courts which could lead to a prison sentence.

Anyone seeking maintenance will be able to use the agency, although parents who are not on income support may wish to settle these payments privately. Spouse maintenance will still be decided by the courts although the white paper suggests that, for convenience, that could be collected by the child support agency.



Ms Daniell and daughter Rebecca yesterday: "I want to know that her father is paying something too"

CLARE Daniell, aged 23, from Lee in southeast London, was abandoned by the father of her child two months after she became pregnant (Bill Frost writes). "I thought we were very serious about settling down and starting a family. But when I told him I was having our baby he slammed down his pint in a fury and stormed out of the pub."

Since the birth of her daughter, Rebecca, 19 months ago Ms Daniell has done her best to track down the man who made her pregnant. "I am very, very bitter. I had a

Lonely mother pleads for cash and revenge

reasonably paid job at the Post Office which brought in about £8,000 a year with bonuses. Now I have to make do on £60.50 a week for myself and the baby. It is very hard.

The man who abandoned her and his own child, has disappeared. While the couple were going out together he lived with a friend in a flat near Mccopham, Kent. On being told he was to become a father he left the area. "I have tried to track him down but his friend refuses to say where he has gone."

Like many abandoned mothers she is in debt. The

money she receives from the Department of Social Security must be spread thinly on food and clothing as she tries to pay back £6,000 owed to various creditors. "While I was working there was no problem. But once I had been forced to give up work because Rebecca was almost due the bills proved much more difficult to pay."

By Christmas Ms Daniell hopes to have a job. She lives with her parents and they will look after Rebecca. "I can and will support myself and Rebecca. But I want to know that her father is paying something too."

INCENTIVES

Built-in boost to go out and work

FINANCIAL incentives to encourage the lone parent to go out to work are built into the new system of maintenance payments.

Working lone parents on social security benefits will have the first £15 in maintenance payments disregarded when family credit, paid to low-income working families, is calculated. After the first £15, for every £1 received in maintenance the mother will lose 70p in family credit. However, non-working lone parents will have £1 deducted in benefit for every £1 they get in maintenance.

In addition, the government has decided to reduce the hours that the mother has to work before she is eligible for family credit from 24 to 16 hours. "The government believes that it should act to encourage parents who wish to achieve greater independence by going to work," the white paper says. However, ministers have decided not to include any disregard for non-working mothers on income support. Any extra money retrieved from absent fathers will find its way back to the Treasury.

If maintenance were received in addition to income support, it would act as a disincentive to going to work "and further frustrate the ambitions which the parents have for themselves", the white paper says.

Linda, a single mother earning £59.64 a week, would get £32.66 in family credit, £12.85 in one-parent benefit and child benefit, and £30 in maintenance, making a total net income of £135.15 a week. On income support, she would get only £90.15 a week.

If you can't wait for Springtime in Paris, try Winter in Birmingham.

Dedicated followers of fashion should be reaching for their personal organisers and Mont Blanc pens.

Because from 6-10 December, "Clothes Show Live" will be previewing the Spring '91 collections from over 200 fashion and beauty houses.

It's the largest style exhibition ever staged in the UK. This year, it will be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. And, for the first time, it's being sponsored by Lloyds Bank.

As well as being able to preview the '91 collections, there'll be a series of fashion shows, six times a day, in the Lloyds Bank Fashion Theatre.

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Which only leaves you with one problem. What on earth to wear.

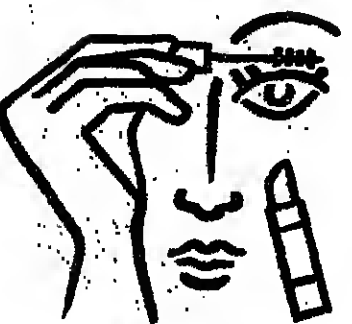
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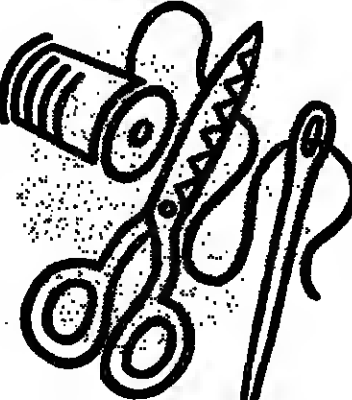
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Campaign launched to prevent heritage under fire

SWATHED in scaffolding and protective sheeting Uppark resembles a ghost brooding over the West Sussex landscape.

On August 30 last year fire broke out at the top of the 17th-century mansion, a jewel in the crown of the National Trust. Although 95 per cent of the ground floor and basement contents were saved, the building was left a gutted shell, its roof collapsed and its magnificent interior was almost totally destroyed.

The fire is thought to have been caused by heat from an oxy-acetylene torch being used during repairs to the roof, which had been damaged in the storm of October 1987. Losses were put at nearly £6 million and, although the trust has decided to restore the house, the work is likely to take another four years and much of what was left is irreplaceable.

In the hope of averting similar tragedies, a seminar is to be held at Manchester University tomorrow, at which a guide to the protection of historic buildings will be launched. It has been produced by the United Kingdom Working Party on Fire Safety in Historic Buildings, which was set up in 1986 after the fires at Hampton Court and York Minster, and on which 23 groups are represented. They include the environment department, the Home Office, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Association of British Insurers, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the

Far too many historic buildings have been destroyed by fire in recent years, John Young explains moves to stem that loss and the special problems

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and English Heritage.

Among the speakers at the seminar will be Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, who is also the committee chairman, and Kenneth Lloyd, West Sussex county fire officer, who will relate the lessons learnt from the Uppark fire. In a foreword to the booklet Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of English Heritage, points out that nearly 750,000 buildings in the United Kingdom, more than 6 per cent of the total, are now listed as special architectural and historic interest and are protected by statutory controls against unauthorised demolition or alteration.

"Unfortunately fire is not law abiding," he says. In recent years buildings of national importance, listed grade I and grade II starred, have been severely damaged by fire at the rate of more than one a year. The number of serious fires affecting grade II listed buildings may be as many as two a

week. "Among the serious fires of the past few years are:

□ June 8, 1984, Heveringham Hall, Suffolk; estimated loss £1.5 million.

□ July 9, 1984, York Minster struck by lightning; loss £4.5 million.

□ March 31, 1986, Hampton Court; fire thought to have been caused by a candle flame.

□ May 10, 1988, Church of St Mary at Hill, City of London, blow lamp ignited roofing material.

□ June 7, 1988, Braidwood Castle, Strathclyde; loss £600,000.

□ January 17 1989, Cullen House, Grampian; loss £667,000.

□ February 12, 1990, Savoy Theatre, London; loss £10 million.

□ September 4, 1990, Historic town centre of Totnes, Devon, destroyed.

The booklet offers advice on the appointment of a fire safety manager for every building, liaison with the fire brigade, compliance with the law, fire prevention and staff training. It also points out that there are special problems with historic buildings. Such buildings frequently incorporate features which assist the rapid spread of fire, such as exposed timber floor structures, walls lined internally with combustible materials such as wood panelling, and roofs of shingles or thatch. There may also be inter-connecting voids behind panelling and wall linings or undivided roof spaces through which fire and smoke can spread



Mary Scott, an archaeological conservator, cleaning a wooden mantelpiece yesterday in front of the covered shell of Uppark House

quickly and undetected. The form and layout of old buildings often make evacuation difficult and hampers the fire brigade's operations. In remote locations

inadequate supplies of water may cause further difficulties.

Many of the problems occur when buildings are converted to new uses, Mr Kidd says. "There

have been a number of instances where people have gone ahead and converted buildings into hotels and conference centres and have got themselves into the

most awful trouble. There are all sorts of problems with historic buildings but they are problems we have to solve. Far too many have been lost in fires."

Disabled criticise MacGregor's local budget plan

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DISABLED groups expressed concern yesterday at proposals to make special schools for pupils who cannot be integrated into mainstream classes responsible for their own budgets, rather than leaving services in the hands of local education authorities.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, published a report by Touche Ross management consultants recommending that local authorities be permitted, although not required, to extend their local management schemes (LMS) to special schools. Headteachers and governors were said to be anxious to control their own budgets.

Mr MacGregor will make a decision on the change in the new year after consultation. Yesterday, however, he left a conference organised by the Spastics Society in no doubt about where his initial sympathies lay.

"We introduced LMS in the firm belief that local decision-making combined with funding based on an open, clear and objective formula would lead to better, more efficient use of resources, and would make schools more responsive to the needs of their pupils. That means all pupils," he said. "Pupils with special educational needs should not be denied the benefits that derive from decisions being made by those closest to the school and with the greatest knowledge of their needs."

He acknowledged that there had been resistance to the application of LMS to pupils with special educational needs and criticism of limits on the amounts local education authorities could hold back for special education and other services. "Some have

also said that formula funding cannot take account of special needs and that school governing bodies should not be given responsibility for pupils with special needs. These are myths. I want to dispel them."

Robert Hancock, principal education adviser for the Spastics Society, criticised the level of resources available to special education. He said: "The massive changes within the state education system at present deflect attention from those with special needs. It is always possible that fewer resources will be allocated to them and that special needs work will be low on the priority list."

Brian McGuinness, director of policy at Mecap, said that the smallness of many special schools and the wide range of services required by their pupils would be difficult to encapsulate in a budget system.

Scots schools guided on religious teaching

By KERRY GILL

THE government yesterday took steps designed to strengthen religious education and observance in Scottish schools after talks with churches, teachers and parents. Announcing new guidelines, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish education minister, said that religious observance, particularly in secondary schools, had to be more frequent. He said that a service once a month was an absolute minimum and that he would prefer to see weekly or even daily observance introduced. That the government has

felt it necessary to issue Scottish education authorities with guidelines will come as a surprise to people brought up on mandatory daily prayers before school in England. The law south of the border was changed two years ago allowing the daily religious observance to take place other than at the start of the day.

In Scotland, there has never been a statutory requirement for prayers, and the practice has disappeared in some schools, according to the Rev Alasdair Morton, chairman of the Church of Scotland's education committee, who welcomed the government's moves last night.

Education authorities will be expected to ensure that religious teaching is based on Christianity while taking into account the teaching and practices of other principal religions. Services should be held at least weekly for primary school pupils and once a month for secondary schools. Education authorities should review staffing to ensure that there were enough teachers of religion.

Mr Forsyth said: "We need to strengthen religious education in our schools. Scotland's tradition is Christianity, and we must build on that. At the same time, other traditions must be respected."



Uncertain future: the actor Joss Ackland, pictured in the grand circle of the Albery Theatre in London, was one of dozens of actors, directors, writers and administrators who gathered there yesterday to launch a campaign to save British theatre. Sir Peter Hall, the former director of the National Theatre, said theatre was being hit to

death, and his successor at the RSC, Richard Eyre, said only £30 million was needed to tackle the combined effects of the Education Reform Act which reduced school visits to theatres, community charge capping, business rates, income tax changes for actors, reduced Arts Council subsidies and other blows to theatrical funding.

Marshall refuses 'bizarre' proposal by Iraq Airways

FROM HARVEY ELLIOT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN GENEVA

THE chairman of Iraq Airways yesterday made a bizarre offer to British Airways: "Give us our spare parts and we will let you have your aircraft back."

Nor Saifi, chairman of Iraq Airways, told Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA, that he hoped normal business could be resumed between the airlines and that the problems of the Middle East could be left to politicians to resolve.

Sir Colin Marshall, whose 747 jet has been held in Kuwait for 13 weeks, along with 76 passengers, 33 crew and four ground staff, refused even to talk about the proposal. He is keeping a daily check on the welfare of those trapped by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and, like other airline chiefs, is forbidden by a United Nations agreement from having any dealings with the Iraqis.

They were in Geneva in force, however, as full members of the International Air Transport Association (Iata), and heard a resolution condemning the Iraqi government for violating the air space of Kuwait and demanding the immediate release of airline employees and aircraft. During yesterday's meeting, the Iraqis studiously ignored a delegation sent to the meeting by Kuwait Airways, whose chairman, Ahmad al-Mishari, said that he was determined to continue flying the Kuwaiti flag wherever he could.

Kuwait Airways has already applied for permission to fly between London and New York, and is seeking permission to operate from Cairo to destinations throughout North Africa and the Middle East. The airline, which now

has only eight of its original fleet of 23 aircraft in operation after the Iraqis took the remainder back to Baghdad, has based itself in Cairo and has virtually set up a new international airline, which yesterday won widespread praise and support from other conference delegates.

As the world's leading airlines face the prospect of accumulated losses of more than £1 billion this year, nearly 200 chairman and chief executives at Iata's annual general meeting discussed ideas for tackling their most severe financial slump for nearly 20 years. Some airlines are planning to cut staffing levels by half and prune less profitable routes.

Others hope that a meeting planned for later this week to set new guidelines on international fares will result in ticket price increases of about 10 per cent. The meeting was told that some American airlines had imposed two-tier wage structures, with new recruits being paid as much as 25 per cent less than those already in the same job.

Dr Gunter Esber, director-general of Iata, told delegates that profits had been badly hit even before the Gulf confrontation sent fuel prices soaring. Last year, he said, members made a total profit of only £155 million, an 80 per cent reduction on the previous year.

More than 100 holiday-makers were stranded at Luton, yesterday when the aircraft due to fly them to Mallorca was seized to cover a £1 million debt left by a bankrupt airline. The aircraft was impounded when an air traffic controller realised that it had once been leased by Paramount Airlines, which collapsed last year with debts of £12 million. After five hours, the passengers were taken to Exeter, Devon, and flown out.

Gulf news, page 8

Sir Colin: would not even discuss the offer made.



Priesthood call promoted

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE number of candidates for the Roman Catholic priesthood worldwide has risen by over 50 per cent in the past 13 years, according to a bulletin issued yesterday by bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

However, in England and Wales, where the numbers have been falling, dioceses are to renew their efforts to promote the priesthood as a fulfilling vocation, following the close yesterday of the month-long Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Although there has been a growth in vocations in many countries some face a shortage of priests, according to the message delivered in St Peter's

in Rome. Many young people find it hard to commit themselves to lifelong priesthood, to give up the possibility of marriage and a family and to choose a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The Right Rev John Brewer, Bishop of Lancaster, one of the British delegates, said last night that many parts of the world had experienced an extraordinary growth. Britain, however, was an exception. Recent figures show a fall in diocesan priests from 4,871 to 4,130 in ten years, while the catholic population of England and Wales has grown from 4.2 million to 4.35 million and the number of

parishes has also increased. Bishop Brewer said: "What we are very concerned about is to address ourselves to parents, to the laity, to encourage them to think positively about the priesthood. Being a priest is a great life. I came to the priesthood reluctantly and yet I could not imagine a happier life."

The synod upheld the principle of celibacy as the norm for priests. In the bulletin the bishops said: "In our discussions, celibacy has shone out for us in a new light and with new clarity." They urged priests to face up to the demands of life in today's world.

Churches pulling out all the stops to find elusive organists

By HENRY STANHOPE

MANY of Britain's churches will have to manage without the playing of the merry organ at carol services this Christmas because there is no one left to do the job. Parishes, already short of clergy and congregations, are now suffering from a national dearth of organists.

There are, however, hopes of an eventual revival. The Learn to Play the Organ Year campaign, launched this year under the patronage of the Archbishop of York, is suffering the consequences of its own success. Its target was to find 500 people to learn to play. At the last count 1,500 had come forward.

All have been sent a special starter pack, including an organ tutor and a

list of qualified local teachers. The response has been so overwhelming, however, that the campaign's funds of £14,000, collected through private and business donations, have been nearly exhausted and need urgent replenishing.

The campaign was started by Anne Marsden Thomas, director of music at St Giles Cripplegate, at the Barbican, in the City of London, who was worried by the dwindling supply of organ students and the emptying organ lofts throughout the country. The problem is most acute in country parishes, which have to rely on amateurs. These have a depressing image to contend with. People think of elderly ladies in straw hats, hitting the wrong keys in half-empty churches, on an in-

strument badly in need of a 5,000-mile service. "One reason why young people have lost interest is that very few have ever heard the organ properly played," Ms Marsden Thomas said.

Another reason may be that they have nowhere to practice. With new organs costing upwards of £40,000, few congregations, let alone individuals, can afford one. Pupils are having to rely on vicars who might or might not entrust the instrument to a learner.

Many of those who learn are dubbed reluctant organists by their teachers. However versatile they may be on the piano they have been pressed into taking up the organ by desperate vicars.

Part of the campaign has been

aimed at local parishes to encourage them to adopt an organist. By taking a local student under its wing and providing the facilities that he or she might need, a parish could not only help meet the national shortage but could bring back the sound of music to its church. Given the chance to learn the instrument properly a student might then be happy to play at a number of services every Sunday for relatively little payment.

One alternative is to bring other instruments into church, such as a piano or strings and woodwind. But a piano is at best a poor substitute while a string ensemble might be even more elusive than an organist.

Another is to fall back on recorded tapes and amplifiers. Lincoln Cathedral has produced its own

casette, which features both its organ and choir and can be used by country parishes. The Royal School of Church Music in London has just prepared a rival version with a selection of 30 hymns.

A commission appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York has been examining the whole subject of church music since 1988. Its lengthy report and recommendations are expected to be published late next year. Traditionalists fear, however, that its findings may be too radical and too tolerant towards tambourines and electric guitars.

There are also worries that by the time its proposals have been translated into action many more churches will have lost the sound of organ music.

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SENTENCING

Judges will not block reform, says Hattersley

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROY Hattersley warned judges last night that Labour would not allow them to delay reforms to the judicial system, including the creation of a sentencing council.

The shadow home secretary said that the inconsistency in sentencing throughout the country and within the same region had to be tackled despite opposition from many sections of the judiciary.

Labour would set up an independent sentencing council to monitor the courts and sentencing practices. The aim of the council would be to minimise the differences that occurred in sentencing which Mr Hattersley said could result in an offender in one part of the country receiving a custodial sentence that was three times greater than that which he would receive in another region. It would also monitor the way in which women and people from the ethnic minorities were treated by the criminal justice system.

Mr Hattersley said he did not believe that the necessary changes in sentencing policy would be matched by a change in sentencing practice without such a body. He added that although he knew the proposal for an independent sentencing council had been met by hos-

tility from many sections of the judiciary, "we must not let judicial vested interests stand in the way of essential reform."

Two models for the composition of the body have been put forward by those seeking reform. One would establish the council as part of the Court of Appeal, with members drawn solely from the judiciary, and the second suggestion is for the council to be chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, with a membership including judges, magistrates, and others such as a prison governor, probation officer and academics.

Speaking at King's College London, Mr Hattersley said that Labour had not yet decided which was the best option, but that he favoured a council with a membership drawn from a wider circle than just the judiciary.

Outlining other Labour plans for the criminal justice system, the shadow home secretary said that he wanted to reduce the prison population to enable a much greater number of petty criminals to serve their sentences in the community and to reduce the number of young men who were converted by prison into hardened criminals.



Roger Freeman, public transport minister, with a model of the proposed privately financed second Severn bridge, three miles downstream of the present one. An agreement was signed yesterday, but legislation will be needed for it to be built

COMMONS

Environment bill debate is delayed by filibuster

By JOHN WINDER, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

MPs ON both sides last night held up the day's planned discussion in the Commons of Lords amendments to the Environmental Protection bill. They argued for an hour that a debate on dog registration should be delayed while MPs informed themselves of the European parliament's proposals on the same subject and were able to obtain copies of a report on the subject to the parliament.

Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, said that there could be contradictory proposals from the European Community.

"What is the point of my dog having a mark on its left ear if, under the common market regulations next year, it should be on the right ear? There is no point in us carrying on with this constitutional nonsense."

How could they discuss the matter today if in a short time the Community was going to decide that dogs should have a nationality certificate? Were there to be cheaper fees for neutered dogs? The EC plan would subsidise neutering.

The House was being denied information about the European plan. By Tuesday, MPs would have been able to get information.

Robert Crevier, Labour MP for Bradford South, said that the European assembly would discuss the report that Mr Taylor was talking about and then it would go to commissioners who were paid £100,000 a year, and they would produce a directive. At that stage, the British government could say that it had spent a lot of money on introducing the British system of dog registration and that it was therefore prepared to resist any suggestion that that scheme should be altered.

"Is the government is pre-

pared to resist this move and support the prime minister, unlike the deputy prime minister (Sir Geoffrey Howe) who seemed deliberately to undermine her in a disgraceful fashion yesterday in a complete breach of Cabinet responsibility?"

He said that other member states applied Community regulations in a leisurely and selective fashion to suit their own situation. Britain should take the same attitude on recent central bank and monetary proposals.

David Trippier, minister for

the environment and countryside, said that it was clear from documents before the Commons that the government wanted to overturn the Lords decision to force them to introduce a dog registration scheme.

When they reached debate on that proposal, the arguments already advanced would be relevant.

If the European parliament was to pass a proposal for a scheme, it would first have to be considered by other Community bodies, not least the council of ministers.

Dog policy legacy left by Ridley

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE government policy on dogs, which was due to be discussed in the Commons last night, was one of the legacies of Nicholas Ridley when he left the environment department last year. Quite simply, he believed that central government should have nothing to do with the animals.

He used the Local Government Act, 1988, to abolish the 37.5p dog licence.

The Lords, always strong on dogs, were hauled into accepting the decision but sought revenge by giving the environment secretary power to introduce a registration scheme.

In the two years of Ridley's free market policy for Britain's 7.3 million dogs, the headlines were full reports of attacks by Rottweilers. Initially, Margaret Thatcher endorsed the Ridley policy, but her nerve has wavered and recently she asked the Home Office to

pursue the idea of banning Rottweilers.

In April, Dame Janet Fookes, the Conservative MP, lost by only 12 votes an amendment to the Environmental Protection bill to bring in a dog registration scheme. On that occasion, 49 Tory rebels supported her and a further 46 abstained.

Faced with defeat in the Lords, the government produced the *Action on Dogs* consultation paper, but that failed to "buy off" the peers. Lord Stanley of Alderley got a majority of 72 for a registration scheme. His amendment, later redrafted, required the government, within two years, to bring forward a scheme to be run by local authorities.

It appears now, however, that, with most of the EC having dog registration, Brussels is thinking of imposing a Community scheme regardless of the Commons vote.

HEALTH REPORT

Hospital services 'are threatened'

By OUR POLITICAL REPORTER

MANY health authorities could be forced to close hospital services because of severe underfunding of the National Health Service this year, Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social services committee, said yesterday.

In his parting shot before the committee's dissolution, the Labour MP predicted cuts in services, similar to those

experienced in 1987, in the wake of the government's demand that health authorities should balance their books before next April.

With the new parliamentary session the committee will be split into two, shadowing the separate government departments of health and social security. Mr Field published the final report in his own name yesterday after failing to win majority support from the Tory-dominated social services committee.

Mr Field said that higher health spending had been eaten up by the higher inflation in the health service.

"In the current year some health authorities will be faced with an immediate and difficult task of dealing with accumulated deficits. Authorities are being required to balance their books before the new funding structure comes into being in April 1991."

He added: "In a proportion of those authorities, particularly in London, it is possible that they will not be able to do so without substantial reductions in services."

The drying up of the property market had led to big cuts in expected income from health service land sales, he said. "We thus foresee a need for further substantial increases in government spending on the hospital and community health services in the coming year to compensate for declining spending power."

Mr Field also asked the health department to review urgently the number of nurses in long-stay hospitals after evidence to the committee complained of "worrying deficiencies".

In addition, he said that cuts in family planning services could increase the number of abortions, adding: "Family planning services alone will not prevent all unplanned pregnancies. However, we consider it essential that the NHS seek to provide as accessible a family planning service as possible."

Commons social services committee first special report: *Work in progress* (Stationery Office)

THE ARTS

Labour makes new appeal on funding

THE arts should be funded above the rate of inflation, Mark Fisher, shadow minister for the arts, said at questions (John Winder writes).

He welcomed the appointment of David Mellor as minister for the arts, saying that he had a deep love of classical music. But Mr Mellor, who was reputed to have the largest compact disc collection in Pamey (this constituency), would be judged on his ability to get money from the government to help the arts as they faced financial crisis.

Mr Mellor said that he had made the case for increased funding to the Treasury, and the result would be disclosed later.

All arts organisations must

SCOTLAND

Devolution worry for Tories

THE constitutional convention has chosen St Andrew's Day, November 30, to present its charter for Scottish devolution (Kerry Gill writes). It is the day on which Scots traditionally ponder the iniquities of rule by Westminster.

Over the next four weeks, the Scottish Conservative party will do its best to ensure that the convention leaders are left with as many questions still unanswered over the prospect of home rule as they have proposals for devolution. The most obvious hurdle faced by Labour and the Liberal Democrats is how they will react when Margaret Thatcher ignores their plan.

Increasingly, however, silence in the face of the constitutional demands looks like being a vote loser for the Conservatives. The Tories' dismissal of the convention, and the boycott by the Scottish National party, have done neither party any good. Last week, Mr Rifkind called on the Scottish business community to state its fear of what a Scottish assembly would do to the economy.

Canon Kenyon Wright, the convention's chairman, said that that finally proved that Mr Rifkind and his party were being forced to recognise the convention's argument.

The convention is expected to call for a directly elected parliament and reject the first-past-the-post system. The proposed parliament's writ would cover matters such as Scottish inward investment, education, health and housing.

The constitutional argument is what has been exercising the Tories' minds. Michael Hirst, president of the Scottish Conservatives, said: "The convention has to explain how Scottish influence would be maintained at Westminster and at the cabinet table following the creation of an assembly which would make the position of secretary of state for Scotland titular."

run their affairs properly, realising that state funding was only part of the funding.

Mr Fisher should take up with Labour local authorities the way in which they had cut arts funding for purely political reasons. Why, for instance, had the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, suffered a £100,000 cut by the local council which had taken on an extra 1,000 staff and still refused to make any of them redundant?

Earlier, Mr Mellor said that if the government had merely indexed its contribution to the arts council, when taking over from Labour, its contribution would now be only £134 million, instead of £175 million.



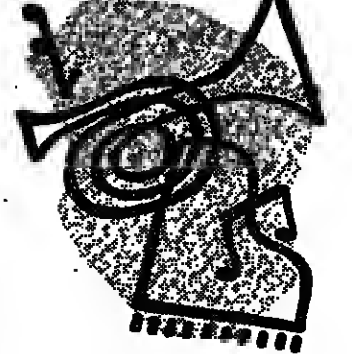
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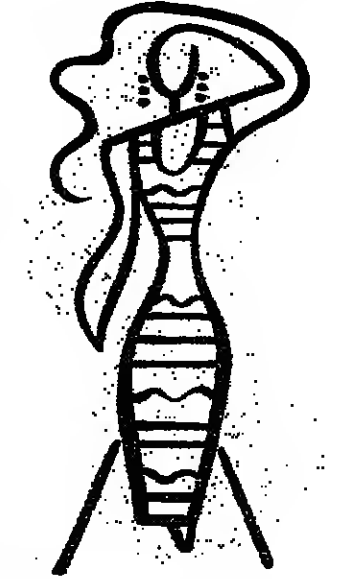
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The one famous for the attractive little Black Horse number.



Setback for Gulf peace drive by Kremlin envoy

From NICHOLAS BEESTON
IN BAGHDAD

MOSCOW'S peace initiatives in the Gulf ended in disappointment yesterday when President Gorbachev's Middle East mediator left Baghdad with little to show for his meeting with President Saddam Hussein.

Yevgeni Primakov, Moscow's veteran Arabist, secured promises from the Baghdad regime for the repatriation in the coming weeks of some 1,000 Soviet workers in Iraq, but appeared not to have taken the prospects for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf stalemate any further.

During his meeting with the Iraqi leader, Mr Primakov who is a member of the Soviet presidential council, gave a warning that, unless Iraq adhered to UN Security Council resolutions calling for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, it faced the prospect of a military conflict against the US and its allies.

But during the 40-minute meeting, President Saddam reiterated Baghdad's position that any solution to the Gulf conflict must be part of a comprehensive international settlement to the troubles in Israel and Lebanon as well.

Soviet officials would not rule out the possibility of further talks in the future, but



Primakov: warnings at Baghdad talks unheeded

emphasise that none was planned. Although the mission was a diplomatic setback for Moscow it also proved a defeat for Baghdad, which had invested great efforts in the past week at trying to split France and the Soviet Union away from the US and Britain in their united stance against Iraq at the security council.

The Iraqi tactic, timed to coincide with yesterday's meeting between President Mitterrand of France and President Gorbachev in Paris, culminated with the release of all 327 French hostages in Iraq and Kuwait, but with no apparent gains for Baghdad.

Diplomats monitoring the Primakov mission conceded that Iraq appears in private to be showing greater flexibility over its occupation of Kuwait.

But they insisted that compromise over Baghdad's annexation of the emirate could be achieved only when greater pressure is exerted on President Saddam through economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation and the threat of using military force.

"Saddam could certainly claim a great victory if he withdrew partially from Kuwait, kept his military in tact and watched Arab support for Bush crumble," said one senior diplomat. "At the moment though he seems prepared to sit tight and only move if he has to."

Certainly Baghdad appears to be convinced that President Bush has lost American domestic support for military action in the Gulf, but the Iraqi leadership is also aware that the longer it holds out the greater it will suffer the impact of the international embargo against Baghdad.

Further evidence emerged yesterday that the effect of economic sanctions is beginning to worry the Iraqi leader, who late on Sunday dismissed his oil minister, Issam Chalabi, and ended the six-day-old petrol rationing.

Mr Chalabi, whose fate was not known yesterday but whose secretary described him as "ill and in hospital", was sacked following an unprecedented week of public disgruntlement at the fuel shortages in a country with the second largest proven reserves of oil in the Middle East.

"The order for rationing came from Saddam, but when reports started coming in from the rank and file of the Baath Party warning of growing public complaints, they needed to find a scapegoat and that is why Chalabi was fired," said one Western oil expert.

Mr Chalabi, an able technocrat who suffered from weak links to the ruling Baath Party and the close-knit group of advisers surrounding President Saddam, was a vulnerable target.

His job has now been given to Hussein Kamil Hassan, the president's son-in-law and heir apparent.

Experts predicted that Iraq can probably meet domestic fuel needs for about another three months before rationing will have to be imposed.

But diplomats said that, if the West decides to follow the sanctions option rather than the use of military force, it could take several months before they take real effect.

Soviet tactics, page 12



Bitter memories: Arab women and children at the Israeli border village of Kafer Qessen, commemorating the 1956 shooting of 47 villagers by police

Egypt arrests 300 in manhunt

Cairo — Egyptian security forces hunting the killers of the speaker of parliament, Rifaat Mahgoub, have arrested 300 Muslim extremists, the interior ministry said (Sarah Gauch writes).

The Muslim militants were captured in fundamentalist enclaves at Assuit and Minya, south of Cairo and the Fayoum oasis, south-west of the Egyptian capital.

Security forces also captured several Palestinian groups yesterday, including one that took directions directly from Baghdad, according to Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister. Organisation members infiltrated the country from border points with weapons, ammunition and explosives, he said, and were carrying plans to attack dignitaries in Egypt.

One newspaper quoted Mr Moussa as saying the group, with strong ties to Baghdad, was under instructions to contact Egyptian extremists to launch attacks. The publication did not connect these groups with the murder.

Dr Mahgoub, who was aged 64, four policemen and a driver were killed in the attack on October 12. Four gunmen riddled the cars they were driving in with machine-gun fire in front of the Inter-Continental Hotel along the Nile river, and then escaped on motor cycles.

Police arrested six Muslim militants at the weekend at their hideout in Cairo, and then shot and killed two others and arrested a third at Cairo university.

All the men are suspected of either planning or participating in the killing of Dr Mahgoub.

Firm line by Bush over Kuwait

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, comparing President Saddam Hussein with Hitler, has ruled out appeasement with Iraq, underlining Washington's resolve to deal firmly with Baghdad, as shown by its deployment of more troops to the Gulf and the visit to Saudi Arabia of James Baker, his Secretary of State.

Mr Bush, addressing several thousand military employees at an air force base near Pearl Harbor, the site of the Japanese attack that drew America in to the second world war, described the invasion of Kuwait as "an outrageous breach of the peace" and told President Saddam he would be held accountable.

His words came after two rounds of discussions between the Iraqi leader and Yevgeni Primakov, a special envoy of President Gorbachev, that had raised hopes of a possible imminent solution to the Gulf conflict.

Mr Bush said that in the second war, "the world paid dearly for appeasing an aggressor who could have been stopped. Appeasement leads only to further aggression and ultimately to war. And we are not going to make the mistake of appeasement again."

The Pentagon said last week that the United States would send up to 100,000 more troops to the Gulf, while the White House announced that Mr Baker would visit the region to discuss with Saudi Arabia the next stages in resolving the confrontation.

The decisions appeared aimed at signalling to President Saddam that international resolve to drive his troops out of Kuwait would withstand his attempts to split the coalition against him by freeing French hostages trapped in Iraq since August. America has said it wants an unconditional Iraqi surrender.

Green struggle, page 9

Palestinian plea by Waldegrave

Rabat — William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, has called here for injustices to Palestinians to be put right, saying the dispute poisoned the atmosphere in the Middle East. "One thing is clear, never again must the Palestinian issue be allowed to be forgotten. It must be settled," he said after arriving from Algeria.

"It is not a matter which should be linked to the Gulf crisis. The origins are separate. But it is a very important issue which poisons the atmosphere in the region and the injustice that continues to be done to the Palestinians must be put right," he said. (Reuters)

Air defences

New York — France has provided key information to Washington about how to jam Iraq's most powerful air-to-air missiles, the French-made R-530 Super and R-550 Magic. Newsweek reported. The news magazine said that Iraq's air defences were tough and that the missiles were formidable weapons when fired from Iraq's French-built Mirage F-1 jets. "But Newsweek has learned that France has told Washington how to jam the missiles". (Reuters)

PoW jobs deal

Baghdad — Iraq has given prisoners of war returning from Iran a choice of either taking government jobs or receiving retirement benefits.

Newspapers said yesterday the ruling Revolutionary Command Council's decision, taken on Sunday, would affect thousands of PoWs freed since Iraq accepted Iran's peace terms for a formal end to the eight-year-long Gulf war in August. (Reuters)

Oil stock plan may send 'wrong signal'

From PETER GUILFORD IN LUXEMBOURG

THE European Community could send the wrong signal to President Saddam Hussein and the highly speculative oil markets if it approved new procedures now for the swift release of emergency oil stocks, EC energy ministers agreed yesterday.

The ministers, meeting in Luxembourg in an attempt to forge a united response to the Gulf confrontation, blamed high oil prices on the "anxious and speculative" behaviour of oil market operators. "World market supplies continue to be adequate and there has been no fall-off in supplies," they said in a joint statement.

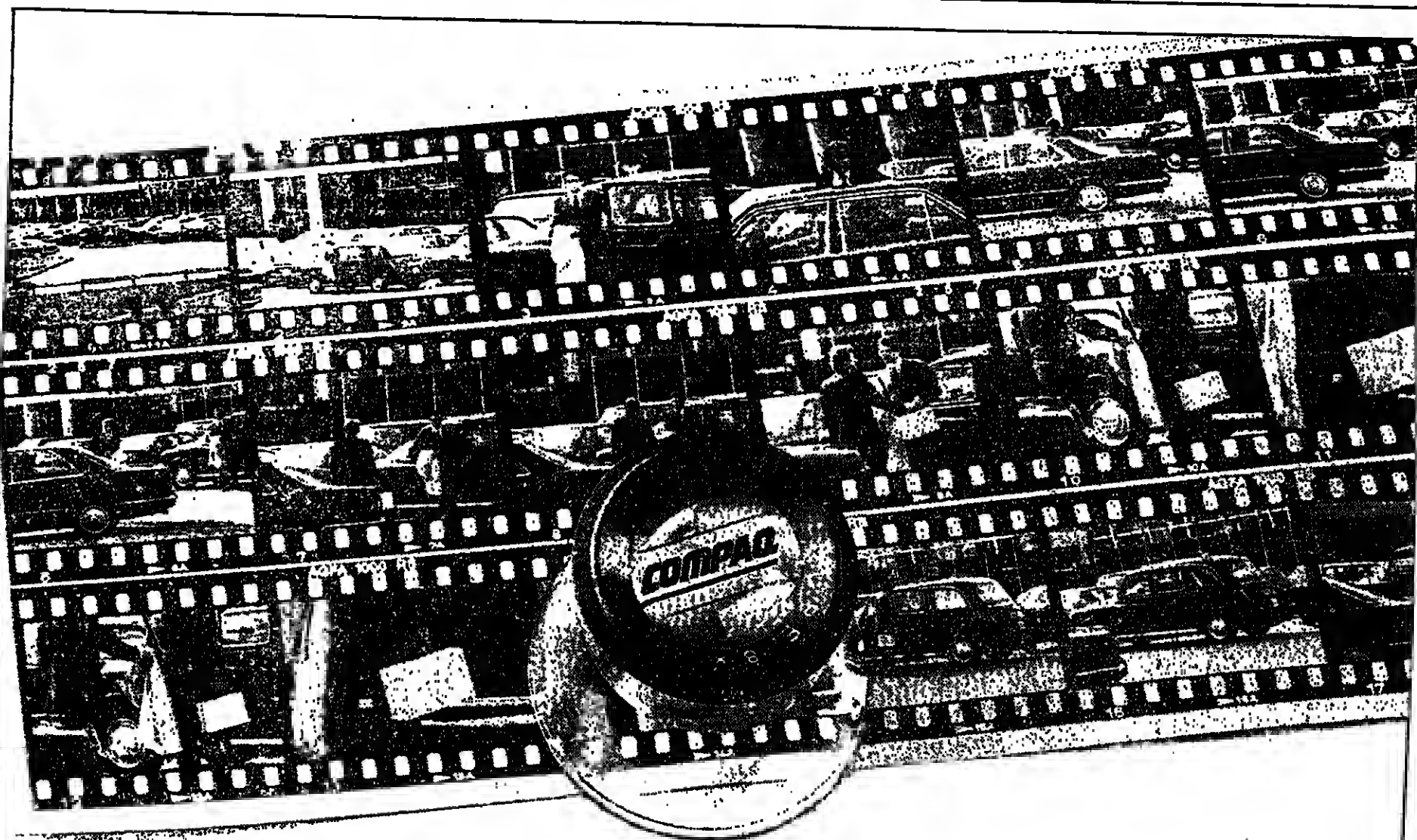
Britain, Germany and The Netherlands accused the European Commission of poor timing for unveiling plans to tighten up emergency EC rules at a time when oil prices are so sensitive. The commission claims that its new rules were designed with future emergencies in mind, and not as a direct response to the invasion of Kuwait.

The measures would allow

the commission to order Britain and her EC partners to release 30 days' worth of emergency oil — one third of total EC stocks — in the event of a serious shortfall in world supplies. Brussels could also set three-month, energy-saving targets for the community and each country would have to place emergency stocks under the control of a single management body.

Dismissing fears of an impending shortage of supply, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said that by April next year stocks will have reached the levels they stood at before the invasion of Kuwait. "Given that there is no crisis, this is no time to introduce crisis management rules," he said.

Mr Wakeham also fears the new Brussels measures could intervene too heavily in national control of stocks. Britain estimates it could cost up to £3.5 billion just to bring strategic stocks under one management umbrella, largely as oil producers also store their own emergency supplies.



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Target date sought for greenhouse gas curbs

FROM ALAN MCGROOR IN GENEVA

THE Second World Climate Conference, which began here yesterday, aims to put the world firmly on the road towards curbing emissions of greenhouse gases, regarded by most scientists as responsible for global warming. Nearly a hundred countries are participating.

The outcome of the discussions by scientists, environmentalists and economists will be a declaration for approval at ministerial-level sessions next week at which the prime ministers of Britain, France, Norway and Malta and King Hussein of Jordan are expected to speak.

The scientists, whose discussions are being co-ordinated by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme, hope that the declaration will set 2005 as the date for achieving a 20 per cent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which makes up more than half of all greenhouse gases.

Given the rate of world population increase they are emphatic that this target is not high enough, but they acknowledge that the lower figure is probably the politically practicable maximum for the moment.

They recognise that progressively raising the target figure, as is being done with the ozone convention on stopping emissions of chlorofluorocarbons, is a process that can only be begun once public consciousness of the potentially catastrophic effects of sustained global warming puts pressure for change on politicians and governments.

The declaration, for submission to the current session of the UN General Assembly, is intended to expedite production of a climate change convention on which negotiations are to begin in Washington in February. This is to be ready for signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development scheduled for Brazil in June 1992.

While he personally was clearly in no doubt that global warming was occurring, Professor Godwin Obase, the director of the World Meteorological Organisation, made the point yesterday that temperature changes had not so far gone beyond the known recorded natural variations.

But, he said, irrespective of the scientific arguments, a convention would bring restraints on atmospheric pollution that would be universally beneficial.

In London yesterday Bryan Gould revealed that he had urged European Community environment ministers to isolate Britain as the "dirty man of Europe", and to agree a common approach to limiting carbon dioxide emissions (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Gould, the shadow environment secretary, has taken the unusual step of writing to every community environment minister to criticise strongly the government's refusal to budge from its commitment to stabilise CO₂ emissions at present levels by 2005.

As EC environment ministers met in Luxembourg to try to agree a target for limiting CO₂ emissions, Mr Gould said they should ignore the objections of Chris Patten, the environment minister, to the European Commission's proposal to stabilise CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.

He said the environment ministers should call Mr Patten's bluff and agree a common target. "The UK should be isolated as the dirty man of Europe, not allowed to hold everyone else back as well," Mr Gould said.

He added that the government continued to block community progress on global warming by its "obdurate refusal" to adopt the European Commission's target of a freeze in carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000.

Margaret Thatcher and Mr Patten, he said, were isolated at home and it was well known that the environment secretary had argued in favour of the EC target but had been overruled by the prime minister.

A common EC position is considered vital to the success of the World Climate Conference. Some observers believe only the community can give the conference the necessary political impetus because the United States, the Soviet Union and the developing nations are reluctant to acknowledge the potential economic consequences of controlling CO₂.

Leading article, page 13

Green struggle for California

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, SAN FRANCISCO

FARMERS call it "the great watermelon" because its green skin hides a pink socialist mush inside. To Elizabeth Taylor and Gregory Peck, Sylvester Stallone and Madonna, it is the "Big Green" measure which will return California to the pristine purity of myth and old movies.

To the voters who go to the polls a week today, it will be merely Proposition 128, one of dozens of binding mandates which the Californian political system allows citizens to send to its elected representatives. If it passes, it could be one of the most significant decisions made by American electors this year, banning dozens of pesticides that have been linked to cancer, and heavily

man, Tom Hayden, the former husband of Jane Fonda. Her current companion, Ted Turner, the boss of CNN, also contributed \$100,000. Big Green attracted 700,000 signatures.

The agricultural industry has hit back. It maintains that, if the proposition were allowed by the courts to take effect, law would destroy one of California's most prosperous job-creating industries. Studies for Big Green's opponents predicted that the price of some products would rise by 30 per cent and some harvests fall by almost a half. One million jobs could be lost by the end of the century, said one partisan study.

The agrochemical industry financed a weaker proposition — known as Mr Hayden and his friends as "Big Brown" — maintaining some of the uncontroversial environmental measures, such as offshore drilling restrictions, but keeping the current pesticide regime intact. "No on 128" posters now vie with other claimants for lamppost space. Support for Big Green is now less than 50 per cent. If voters pass both the Green and Brown initiatives, the one with the more votes wins.

Propositions were invented early this century to counter the hold railway barons had over the elected representatives of the state. The reverse is now true. Well-funded pressure groups find it easier to back propositions than to buy congressmen. Would-be governors and senators have to run either for or against key propositions or risk appearing to duck the big issues.

Senator Wilson, the Republican who is the front runner in the race for governor, opposes Big Green. He draws strong support from the farmers of southern California. Dianne Feinstein, his Democrat opponent, has endorsed it, hoping to tap the state's environmental spirit.

California passed the tax-limiting Proposition 13 in 1978 and set off a national tax revolt. It is touch-and-go whether a similar revolution is also in the making now.



Hayden: radical force for the environmental agenda

curbing car emissions and "greenhouse gases" as well as logging and oil drilling. Food prices would rise, and because no food would be allowed into California unless it met the new standards, all of American agriculture might be under the Big Green thumb.

The battle over the proposition is intense, and \$20 million (£1.3 million) has been spent by the luminaries of both sides to win the day — more than the Republican senator, Pete Wilson, will spend to become governor.

The Big Green race, like the gubernatorial contest, is now neck-and-neck. The initial force behind Proposition 128 was the radical state assembly-



Bravest of the brave: Five of the seven living Gurkha holders of the Victoria Cross recall their past campaigns yesterday at the new Gurkha museum at Peninsula barracks, Winchester (Ray Clancy writes). Rambhadr Limbu, aged 57, left, Havikar Gaje Ghale, aged

75, Agamsing Rai, aged 72, Ganis Lama, aged 76, and Bhanbhagta Gurung, aged 70, had travelled from Nepal for the gathering of medal holders. The two other Gurkha VCs were too frail to make the journey from Nepal. The five were welcomed by members of their old regiments

whom they had not met for decades. Four of them took part in the Burma campaign in the second world war. Lance-Corporal Limbu was awarded his VC in 1965 after saving several of his comrades under intense machine-gun fire in Sarawak, East Malaysia. The museum commemo-

rates the services of the Gurkhas to Britain since 1815, including campaigns on India's northwest frontier, and in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, Burma, North Africa and the Falklands. During the first and second world wars their number — all volunteers — reached 120,000.

Curfew to head off clashes in holy city

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LUCKNOW

THE north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh was sealed off from the rest of the country yesterday in a massive security operation to save an old mosque on the site that Hindus believe is the birthplace of Lord Rama, the Hindu god-king.

Mass arrests, officially put at 2,000 but unofficially said to number 20,000, continued. Shoot-on-sight curfews were imposed and Lucknow, the state capital, was tense.

Shops and markets remained closed all day and stocks of some basic foods have virtually run out.

The holy city of Ayodhya, where the 16th century mosque has become a symbol of escalating Hindu-Muslim strife, has been sealed off to prevent tens of thousands of Hindus marching to the site today. The Hindu zealots want to build a temple in place of the ancient mosque.

The site has inflamed religious tensions since at least 1855, when Hindus and Muslims fought a pitched battle. But it was always a local dispute; only now has it become ensnared in an outbreak of communal politics with national repercussions.

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Lufthansa

Moscow council urges Gorbachev rethink on military parade

MOSCOW city council has sent an urgent appeal to President Gorbachev asking him to reconsider his instruction that the traditional Red Square parade next Wednesday should go ahead. The appeal, which cites the delicate security situation in the Soviet capital, was signed on Sunday by the city's deputy mayor, Sergei Stankevich.

Mr Stankevich, who is in charge of the council while the mayor is abroad, declined to give details of the appeal, saying that he preferred its contents to remain confidential. However, it is understood to set out the risk of disorder and violence in the capital if the military parade, which marks the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, is not cancelled.

Two months ago the city council asked for the cancellation of all

Political and economic tension has prompted Moscow to ask President Gorbachev to reconsider his Red Square parade resolution, reports Mary Dejevsky

anniversary parades in Moscow, suggesting instead that the two-day public holiday be used to complete preparations for winter. The council argued that Muscovites were in no mood to celebrate the anniversary, that the city could not afford the expense of civic festivities, and that the parade would invite protests.

President Gorbachev issued a resolution two weeks ago instructing that the Red Square parade, as well as the parades traditionally held in Leningrad and the capitals of the 15 union republics, should

proceed as usual. The expense of Moscow's military parade will be borne by the central authorities, but the cost of policing the civilian march which usually follows it will fall to the city council.

Mr Stankevich yesterday told journalists that the council had set up a special "anti-conflict" team to prepare for next Wednesday's holiday. It was also trying to ensure that those bodies which wanted to organise their own parades in Moscow could do so. They would be given a specific time to march through Red Square

to prevent clashes. Even so, he said, tension is running high. The difficulties likely to be faced were illustrated last Friday night, when a group of radical parliamentary deputies stopped a military convoy as it returned from the first parade rehearsal. According to a brief report in *Izvestia*, several deputies lay down in front of the tanks and forced them to halt. The local commander was called and they agreed to move after 45 minutes.

The one course not open to the city council, which is dominated by Yelstinite reformers, is to suggest it cannot keep order. This would amount to an invitation to the central authorities to impose a state of emergency, possibly enforced by the military. Mr Stankevich revealed yesterday that the council had considered such a turn

of events. "We have to meet this possibility philosophically," he said. "Moscow city council has no way of resisting such measures. We will work within our constitutional responsibilities."

In one respect, preparations for the coming winter, Moscow appears to be doing better than many other Soviet cities. Statistics presented to the Soviet parliament yesterday showed that Moscow and Leningrad were the only cities to have met their targets for preparing the communal heating systems and repairing buildings.

More than 40 other cities, including several in the Urals, were said to have between 10 and 20 per cent less fuel than they needed. Mr Stankevich also said Moscow had sufficient food stocks and a little to spare. He did not, however, comment on reports that

rationing for all basic goods will be introduced by the new year at the latest.

In general, figures presented to a worried parliament yesterday indicated the Soviet Union is not as badly prepared for winter as many had feared. There is a shortfall in oil supplies and emergency fuel stocks in many areas are one-third or more lower than at this time last year.

The long-term prospects, however, are considerably worse. Moreover, the main reason why the fuel situation is not as bad as had been predicted is the sharp fall in industrial production. Factories are using less fuel, because they are producing fewer goods.

● **HELSINKI:** Nikolai Vorontsov, the Kremlin environment chief, said yesterday that he welcomed public pressure to stop

Soviet nuclear tests, but dared that only a global moratorium would halt them (reports Rter). Moscow conducted its first nuclear test for a year in the Arctic archipelago of Novaya Zelya last Wednesday, raising concern in Nordic countries. "I would welcome public pressure on us...but if you put pressure only on the Soviet Union you will not be successful. You must pressure both East and West," said Ir Vorontsov, who chairs the state committee on the environment. Igor Gavrilov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation environment committee, said authorities in the region of the north Russian city of Archangel should have been told of the Novaya Zemlya test beforehand.

Gorbachev in the Gull, page 12

Coalition in Norway ends over dispute on EC ties

From TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO

NORWAY'S Conservative-led three-party coalition government resigned yesterday after little more than a year in office because it was unable to resolve an internal dispute over Norwegian relations with the European Community.

Concern over laws governing foreign businesses operating in Norway, which Brussels deplores as discriminatory, had brought stalemate to recent negotiations between the EC and the European Free Trade Association, the outsiders' club to which Norway belongs. The talks had sought to create a trade agreement between the two bodies, the so-called "European Economic Space".

Norway was ready to join the EC in 1972, along with Denmark, Britain and Ireland, but changed its mind after a referendum narrowly rejected membership.

No government since has dared propose community membership. During last year's parliamentary elections European issues were not even on the agenda.

Although opinion polls this year have shown a tiny pro-membership majority for the first time since the referendum, there are still families in which the pros and cons of 1972 fight to speak to one another. Thorvald Stoltenberg, the former Labour foreign minister and now United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, often recalls 1972 as "the closest Norway has come to civil war".

He is less inclined to quote the infamous slogan under which the referendum was to effect decided: "Would you want your daughter to marry a Sicilian?"

In the fragile coalition led by

Jan Syse, the prime minister, it was the Centre Party, representing Norway's heavily protected and subsidised farmers, which had from the start dictated a clause in the original coalition agreement, known as the suicide clause, that virtually ensured the collapse of the government if any attempt were made to discuss EC membership. In the event there was no need to invoke it: the merest attempt to negotiate with Europe was enough to bring down the government.

The Norwegian constitution forbids the dissolution of the Storting (parliament) between elections, which are held every four years. The likeliest alternatives at the moment seem therefore to be either a new minority Labour administration under Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister - it would be her third government since 1981 - or a Conservative minority government operating without the formal support of its recent coalition partners.

Mr Syse will be trying to form such a government in the next few days. Whatever his fate, the chances are that he will be remembered as the man who managed at last to provoke serious discussion of Europe in the Storting. Mr Syse's natural constituency in the business community has become increasingly impatient with the timidity of Norwegian politicians over EC membership, despite the ever-higher cost to the nation's artificially protected economy and the increasing cultural marginalisation of a population already described by one old Nordic hand as "a seafaring people who sometimes seem determined to prove that travel narrows the mind".

Some commentators have suggested that the Conservatives were willing, even eager, to precipitate a government collapse to force the issue into the open.

Recent Swedish and Finnish statements, backed by opinion polls, have suggested that a collective Nordic application for European membership would be a logical and popular move.

Leading article, page 12



Syse: will be trying to put together a new government

Basque poll viewed as triumph for moderation

From HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

NEWSPAPERS in Madrid yesterday agreed in describing the outcome of the Basque regional elections as a triumph of moderation, despite the fact that the coalition which favours the Basque extremists, Herri Batasuna, retained its 13 seats in the 75-seat regional parliament.

The rise of the right, the presence of which was previously almost non-existent in the regional parliament, was interpreted by leading articles in most of the capital's dailies as a sign of increasing "normality" in the Basque country, where intimidation had held down the conservative vote.

The clear victor was the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which picked up five seats for a total of 22, making it the party with the most representation by far. Other non-violent nationalist parties, such as Euzko Alkartasuna, born five years ago as a splinter group of the PNV, apparently lost votes in favour of the PNV.

Rain was blamed for high abstention (nearly 39 per cent) which favoured Herri Batasuna, whose followers are more disciplined than those of less radical parties. The fact Herri Batasuna did not increase its representation was considered a good sign for peace in northern Spain.

The surprise of the elections was the sudden rise of Union Alavesea, a provincial splinter group of the conservative Popular Party which won three seats in this, its first elections. Despite the split, the Popular Party increased its own representation in the Basque parliament from two to six.

The regional branch of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party lost three seats, ending up with only 16 and slipping to the position of second most powerful party. Considering that together the PNV and the Socialists now hold 38 seats, more than half the total of 75, newspapers here agreed that a reputation of the PNV-Socialist parliamentary coalition which has been ruling the region is almost certain.



Dinner partners: Raisa Gorbachev, left, and Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president, before attending a banquet at the Elysée Palace. President Gorbachev and his wife are on a two-day visit to France, which has agreed to extend \$500 million credit to Moscow

Albania expects links with UK next year

From RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

AFTER a break of more than four decades, Britain is expected to re-establish diplomatic ties with Albania before the end of next year, a senior Albanian official said here yesterday.

Muhammed Kapllani, deputy foreign minister, said: "A compromise will be found very soon. We are awaiting a British initiative, which I am sure will be coming."

Senior British and Albanian diplomats have met in Rome and New York. When Albania's leader, President Ali, visited the United Nations headquarters in New York earlier this year he spent more than 20 minutes over breakfast with Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister.

After the announcement this spring that Albania was willing to end its long years of diplomatic isolation and resume ties with the Soviet Union and America, both Moscow and Washington signalled their intention to establish full diplomatic links by the middle of 1991.

However, the resumption of relations with Britain is more complex. In 1946 two naval ships, HMS Saumarez and HMS Volage, were struck by mines in the Corfu channel. More than 40 British sailors lost their lives. The incident occurred as London was preparing to send an ambassador to Tirana, fuelling speculation that

enemies of good Anglo-Albanian ties were responsible. Albania denied any responsibility but the international court at The Hague found it responsible and ordered it to pay compensation.

When Tirana rejected this, London froze Albania's gold, which was recovered from the Germans at the end of the second world war. Relations between the two nations deteriorated further with the failure of attempts by London and Washington a few years later to destabilise Albania.

The thorny question of the gold is expected to be resolved in a way in which neither country suffers any loss of prestige.

A senior economist here, who asked not to be named, said Britain could repay the gold in the form of aid over a number of years in return for investment opportunities. Albania's economy is close to collapse and Tirana is clearly hoping that, with the arrival of US and Soviet missions, investment can be encouraged and trade links forged.

Britain is expected to wait until the American mission has established itself here before re-establishing diplomatic links, but Albanian intellectuals have expressed the hope that Britain will not re-establish ties until London is convinced that Tirana's reform programme is a true commitment to democracy.

Slovak nationalists issue strike threat

By GABRIEL RONAY

SLOVAK separatists, after a week of rallies and nationalist mass demonstrations in several cities demanding that Slovak be made the sole official language of the state, are threatening to paralyse Czechoslovakia with a "protest general strike", while hunger strikers outside the Bratislava parliament are brightening tensions.

By resorting to extra-parliamentary means to force the Slovak assembly to adopt their extreme demands, shadowy nationalist groups are threatening the country's unity and stability and undermining President Havel's delicate transition to democracy.

They are also sowing discontent among Slovakia's sizeable ethnic minorities whose hopes of improved human rights and education in their mother tongues were pinned on the success of the democratic process. Apart from 750,000 Hungarians, there are ethnic Germans, Poles, Ruthenians and Ukrainians living among 5½ million Slovaks.

Despite the threats and street protests, the Slovak parliament rejected on Friday a nationalist bill that would have deprived the ethnic minorities of their right to education in their language. It voted 82 to 51 for a more moderate draft language law which is not openly discriminatory against the minorities. At

the weekend Vitoslav Moric, the leader of the separatist Slovak National Party, called for further mass demonstrations and a civil disobedience campaign to culminate in a general strike.

Last week's big protests were organised by Matica Slovenska, a nationalist organisation which acted as the "saviour of the Slovak nation" in the struggle for nationhood against the Austro-Hungarian empire in the 19th century. Recently it has been reconstituted, and is leading the fight against cultural and linguistic concessions to the minorities, something the original Matica Slovenska was trying to secure for the Slovaks. Its right-wing Slav ideology finds many supporters in the Slovak National Party, a member of the post-revolution coalition government in Bratislava. It also appears to appeal to former hardline communist apparatchiks.

Another shadowy nationalist organisation with its roots in the 19th century struggle for nationhood, the "Ludovic Star Society", has also joined the "battle of the streets" for Slovak being made the sole official language. Last week it issued a forceful statement "calling on all Slovaks in these historic times to demonstrate in front of the Slovak parliament in Bratislava for the implementation of Matica Slovenska's demands".

Secessionist win

Tbilisi - Non-communist parties won elections in the southern Soviet republic of Georgia on a platform calling for independence from Moscow, private ownership of land and a capitalist economy, officials said. "We are certainly going to have a majority in parliament," said Zviad Gamsakhurdia, leader of the victorious Round Table-Free Georgia bloc. He claimed victory in 70 per cent of the 90 per cent of regions where results are known. (AP)

Burma clampdown

Bangkok - The last few opposition leaders not in jail after a week of arrests, raids and intimidation in Burma have given in to army demands that they abandon claims to an overwhelming mandate to rule, a Burmese source said here. All but four leaders of the National League for Democracy have been arrested in the military government's most sweeping clampdown since the party won a landslide election victory five months ago. (Reuters)

President wins

Abidjan - President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast defeated Laurent Gbagbo, aged 45, in the first contested presidential poll to win a seventh five-year term. With about half the vote counted the president, aged 85, had taken more than 85 per cent of the vote in Sunday's election, the government said. His challenger, averaging around 13 per cent, alleged vote fraud and claimed that some cities were near insurrection. (Reuters)

Moldavia vote

Kishinev - Ethnic Russians in Soviet Moldavia have followed the example of the rebel Turkish Gagauz minority and declared they will hold their own elections, setting the stage for more trouble in the south-western republic. The explosive situation in regions inhabited by the 150,000-strong Gagauz minority appeared to have calmed as Soviet troops moved in to impose a state of emergency and Moldavian nationalist vigilantes moved out. (Reuters)

Port strike over

Damkirk - The 1,100 striking dock workers here have approved an accord reached between leaders of their union, the General Confederation of Labour, and port officials to end a 32-day strike that has brought the port to a standstill. Hubert Du Mesnil, the union negotiator, said the accord called for renovations at the port and steps to reduce unemployment. The high rate of joblessness was one of the main reasons for the strike. (AP)

Havel's spell on sleeping beauty begins to fade

PRAGUE NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

The posters in Wenceslas Square announce a plethora of rallies, concerts and the inevitable "happenings" to mark the approaching anniversary of Czechoslovakia's November revolution.

Three Indian sects are offering sessions interpreting the meaning of life and the money changers are trying to pass off Yugoslav dinars as crowns with the seductive reasoning: "Socialism, communism, all the same - we give a very good rate."

The old neon signs vaunting the merits of Bulgarian wine, Polish construction machinery, and Skoda cars vie for attention with a new casino opened by an Austrian entrepreneur and a *Strypny* bar into which German businessmen pile chortling from a cavalcade of Mercedes.

In the bars of the main hotels

legions of bored prostitutes are discovering the downside of the law of supply and demand.

Finding a room in the city involves an elaborate process of bribing, wheedling and feigning outrage now that West Europe has rediscovered the sleeping beauty city on its doorstep. Prague these days is buzzing with business, sex and culture, the three common symptoms of post-revolutionary Central Europe, but scrub the surface and hiale has changed. The grocery stores still pile their windows with elaborate displays of tinned fish, the streets are gloomy, and the workers head home with heads bent grimly against the onslaught of winter. The restaurants with their comforting oak interiors and even more consoling beer are half empty, although the tables bear reserved signs and hopeful diners are turned away.

The government has introduced minor price rises but so far has held off implementing the tough economic reforms nec-

essary for a market economy until the beginning of next year. A 12-month period of grace is coming to an end. That it has lasted so long is due to the unassailable popularity of President Havel.

He has achieved the near impossible, keeping the minds of a post-revolutionary people off their own economic plight to concentrate on the wider themes of national reconciliation and tolerance. But the spell is beginning to wane. "The revolution" said one bar stool philosopher over his massive stein of dark beer. "It means nice people at the top but the same bloody awful life at the bottom. All that is different is the uncertainty."

The government's hesitancy is based on an uncertainty about what kind of society Czechoslovaks want. An opinion poll by an American bank intended to



help answer the question produced a result of which the external prevaricator, Schwegel, would have been proud. When asked if they wanted a market economy, 87 per cent said yes. Asked if they wanted a planned economy, 85 per cent of the same sample also said yes.

The famous Pragmatic Institute asked to interpret the results traced it back to the

theory that the revolution was simply "a massive kick in the behind" for communism without any clear idea of what they wanted afterwards.

Prague remains stubbornly old-fashioned despite the assaults of modernity from the West. The Vienna of a certain age arrive in droves of feathered hats to rediscover the drowsy splendour of the Habsburg era.

They enthuse at the city's air of officially sanctioned laziness. While Poland, Hungary and the former East Germany try to take flying leaps into the future, Czechoslovakia seems keener on a return to the snug Central European ways of the past.

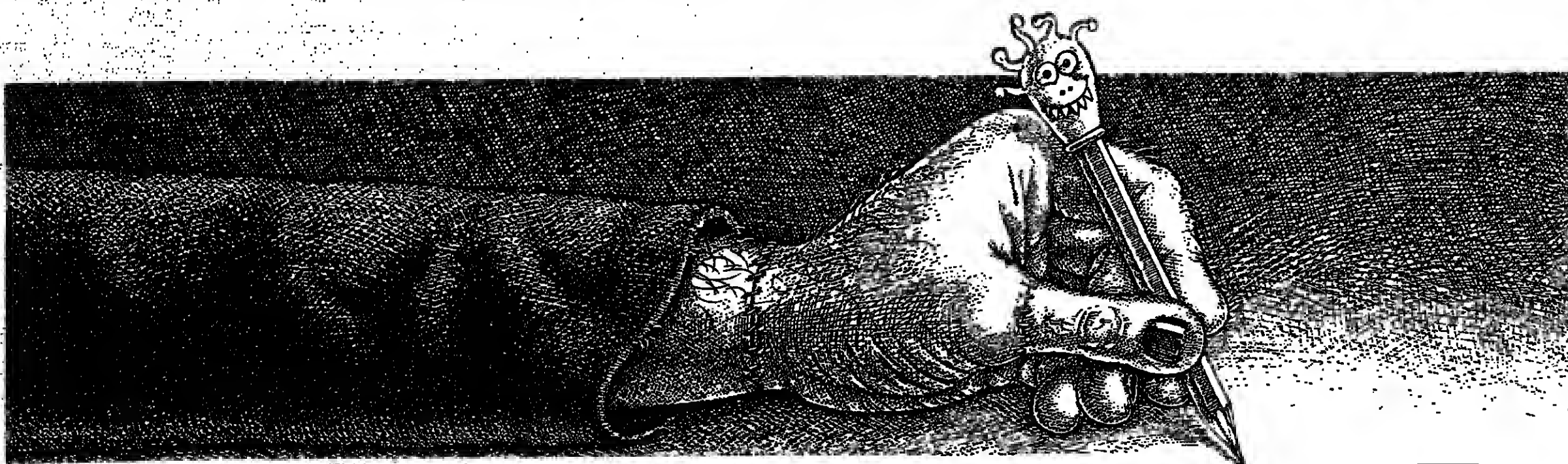
"People want to cancel out the last 45 years just like everywhere else around here," said one diplomat, "but they are unsure whether that leaves them where the rest of Europe is in 1990 or where they were in 1945."

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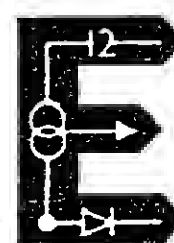
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Elections for tomorrow

Raymond Plant

I have just been handed a hot political potato: chairing the working party set up by the Labour party to look into electoral reform. Its remit includes not only elections to the House of Commons but to the European Parliament, the proposed Scottish parliament and regional assemblies and an elected second chamber to replace the House of Lords.

The Labour party can now consider these issues from a position of strength in the opinion polls, and this is of vital importance. If a future Labour government is to propose fundamental constitutional changes such as proportional representation, then as Neil Kinnock has made clear, it should not be for short-term tactical reasons.

The last time the party looked at the issue seriously was 60 years ago, and that debate was conducted against a background of short-term electoral considerations. In 1929 a minority Labour government took office. An accommodation with the Liberals seemed the only way out, and the price was electoral reform. The Liberals were themselves split on the issue, with the right — under Sir John Simon — more interested in cooperation with the Conservative party. In February 1931, a bill providing for the alternative vote was introduced. It was rejected by the Lords.

Now, however, Labour can be more confident and reflective, which is good, since any proposal for proportional representation has far-reaching constitutional implications. Pressure for PR and other constitutional reforms (such as a bill of rights) is a predictable consequence of the politics of the 1980s. Since 1979 we have been governed by a party committed to radical reform which polled considerably less than 50 per cent of the vote yet won impregnable parliamentary majorities.

Of course, no government since the war has been based on majority support, but this seemed scarcely to matter when there was a higher degree of consensus about political and economic issues and about constitutional matters such as the relationship between central and local government. When a government pushes through radical reforms having secured just over 42 per cent of the vote, as the Conservatives did twice in the 1980s, the doctrine of the democratic mandate is bound to come under scrutiny.

There is no theoretical answer to what is a fair system of voting. No one can represent another person in every respect, and any system of election must involve second-guessing.

Some say the function of a legislature is to represent the pattern of interests in a society. If we believe that interests are coincident with geographical com-

munities, then it can be argued that first-past-the-post accurately represents interests aggregated into constituencies — assuming that the MP's duty is to represent the interests of the whole of his or her constituency. However, an MP is elected as a member of a party as well as for a constituency, and there are often conflicts between these two loyalties.

Some proponents of PR argue that geography is a poor guide to voters' interests, that there are distinct social groups within geographical areas whose interests are not represented by single-member constituencies. They argue that PR and multi-member constituencies would secure a fairer representation of a wider range of group interests. At the centre of this controversy is the question of whom elected representatives should represent: individuals aggregated into geographical communities, political parties, or social groups? There are many ways in which a legislature can mirror society.

The second underlying question is, what are elections for? Even if their prime function is to compose a legislature that mirrors the pattern of interests in a society, the formation of an administration depends upon coalition-building by party leaders. Critics argue that at this stage the process ceases to be democratic. The process also entrenches a great deal of power in centre parties, which, like the Free Democrats in Germany, are ideologically flexible enough to inhabit coalitions with either right or left. Those sceptical about PR argue that far from representing a wide range of interests, PR tends to give small centre parties disproportionate, pivotal power.

It may be argued that voters should have a clear idea what the parties stand for when they vote, and that elections are held to give a party authority to carry out its programme. This view favours the first-past-the-post system, in which the parties need to compete for as large a proportion of the vote as they can. The higher percentage of the vote the ruling party attracts, the more secure is its mandate. What then of a government that wins less than half of the vote?

The Labour party is considering elections for institutions other than the Commons, and their functions and relative degree of legitimacy vis-à-vis the Commons are also central issues. At the heart of these issues are questions of the nature of consent, legitimacy and the role of parties.

These are not technical matters to be solved by experts, and I hope that the Labour working party will be a catalyst for a wide debate in the Labour movement about the nature of democratic reform.

The author is professor of politics at Southampton University.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Little did André-Jacques Garnerin think, as he plummeted from his balloon into the shrubbery of the Parc Monceau on that brisk autumn day in 1797, that this first parachute descent would be so egregiously commemorated in Cricklewood exactly 193 years later.

The October 22 fireworks were magnificent. The welkin exploded into streak and starburst, dogs went mad, and such Old Contemptibles as still survive lurched in their coats to sudden dreams of Mons and Ypres. Good old Garnerin, to generate such fun! Unless, of course, these pyrotechnic parties were in fact being thrown for Hawley Crippen, convicted on that selfsame date in 1910, I have asked around, but could elicit only the even more confusing opinion that the jumping jacks were hopping about in celebration of the birthday of Sarah Bernhardt.

October 23's display, though, was unquestionably ignited on behalf of the Battle of Edgehill. Cricklewood makes no secret of its bi-cultural cruces, and any appearance in the calendar of Oliver Cromwell is always good for a commemorative detonation or two down here. The bombardment of October 24 was, however, more imponderable: I doubt that the villagers would have forked out for either Zambia's National Day or the signature of the Treaty of Westphalia, and I am only guessing when I say that the 1945 execution of Vidkun Quisling must have made more of a local impression than one had hitherto assumed.

But no such doubts attached to the historical provenance of all the rocket sticks that fell in my garden on the night of October 25. Beyond question, these showered down in homage to the longbow arrows that saved Cricklewood's bacon at Agincourt; and how could one grumble at the morrow's need to pluck them from pond and gutter, when a moment's reflection reminded me that, but for the immortal doings of St Crispin's Day, I should probably be grumbling in French?

But how to explain, on Friday, a sudden nocturnal barrage with which any Second Front would have been proud to open? While my wife got up to

put the kettle on, I groped for the encyclopaedia, to find that nothing of celebratory moment had happened on October 26, the birth of François Mitterrand and the opening of the Erie Canal. But hardly had I plumped for the latter — on the grounds that since it had been dug entirely by Irishmen, their Cricklewood descendants would not let a million ancestral callouses go uncommemorated — than my wife, who is something of a soccer fanatic, pointed out that it was, in fact, the 127th anniversary of the Football Association.

Hers must be the correct attribution. Furthermore, I have to conclude, from the nifty detritus of expended thunderflashes which next morning littered the front garden, that a hooligan element cannot be ruled out.

We were out on Saturday night, but the gauntlet we drove back through bore witness that the agglomerated births of Captain Cook, Niccolò Paganini, Dylan Thomas, Theodore Roosevelt, Glen Hiddle and, of course, John Chese did not go unrecorded by the neighbourhood's touch-papers.

There was a peculiar poignancy to Sunday night's explosions. Because it was exactly 87 years since the birth of Evelyn Waugh three streets from mine at 11 Hillfield Road, and because the poor chap had spent the rest of his life attempting to conceal that he was a son of Cricklewood, the sound the sensitive ear could detect beneath the crack and sizzle was the pitiable noise of a snob turning in his grave at posterity's refusal to disclaim on his behalf what he had steadfastly refused to claim in his own. Still, the fact that what was lit were Roman candles may have gone some way towards appeasing his shade.

It is Monday as I write, and already the air is acid with the recognition of the founding of the Red Cross. At least, I hope it is; the alternative is the birth of Goebbels. And there is much more to come. I know, before November 4 — though why that should be the date the season traditionally closes, I have never been certain. It may, I suppose, simply be that unhappy day on which the historians run out of ammunition.

Malcolm Wicks believes the maintenance proposals will do little for children most in need

Will mothers name the guilty father?

Yesterday's white paper on maintenance, *Children Come First*, which would allow bureaucracy to enter the heart of private relationships and family matters, is highly contentious. It proposes a Child Support Agency that will collect information on incomes and obligations to maintenance; assess the "maintainable income"; determine methods of payment, monitor and, where necessary, collect maintenance and enforce payments.

The father (or mother if she is the non-custodial parent) will be required to pay maintenance to the former family based on a complicated formula which involves a large percentage of net income — 29 per cent in one example. There will be rigorous enforcement procedures, including the requirement that mothers should name the father.

The background to these proposals is the rapid increase in the numbers of one-parent families. The proportion dependent on income support has grown from one in six in 1961 to some 70 per cent today. During the 1990s about 1.5 million British children will experience their parents' divorce. Moreover, a large number

of children will be born to single mothers. Only about one in four of lone mothers on income support receive maintenance payments, which are often both meagre and erratic.

Under the new formula the "maintainable income" will be determined on the income support entitlement of the lone parent and her children. In assessing the share of this bill between the parents, the "assessable income" of both will be calculated: that is, what they are left with once their essential expenditure (based on income support rates) and housing costs has been deducted from net income. Those on lower incomes will not be expected to meet the maintenance bill in full, but up to 50 per cent of their assessable income will have to go towards it. And that is not the end of the story: once the maintenance bill has been met in full, a proportion of remaining income (the white paper suggests 15 per cent) will be added "so that the children can share in the parent's standard of living".

Lone mothers will be required to name the father so that maintenance can be collected. If they do not, income support or family

credit can be reduced by up to 20 per cent (27.35 at current rates) of the adult allowance, though there will be exceptions.

Some mothers fear violence if they comply. According to one survey, about 4 per cent of lone mothers gave the fear of violence as the reason for not naming the absent father. And the new maintenance regime may provoke threats. More generally, some mothers simply do not want to bring their husbands back into the picture; some fear that the fathers might seek greater access to the children if maintenance is enforced. In the beleaguered and sometimes brutal background of fragmented family life, it will require the wisdom of Solomon to balance these considerations against wider policy objectives, including the interests of the taxpayer. Where mothers are obviously in danger of violence, they must not be subjected to official pressure, but judging this will be a delicate matter.

One of the most difficult areas will be judging the relative needs of the first and second family. A tougher maintenance regime may well discourage men from having children the second time around,

at least until they can demonstrate that they are looking after the first. But the demography of family life is complicated: remarriage rates and cohabitation fuel the increase in step-families. Every year, one in three marriages involves at least one of the partners remarrying. Among men who divorced during the period 1979-1982, more than half (53 per cent) had remarried within two years. Men are not only more likely than women to remarry but to remarry more quickly after a divorce. About one in ten children live in step-families.

No sensitive family policy can ignore the position of second families. The white paper proposes that allowance will be made for any children of a new marriage or partnership. Government will need to act with wisdom and compassion in this area and not let its "get tough" rhetoric reduce second families to near poverty levels in the name of family policy.

Will the new proposals actually benefit the children in one-parent families? Any extra maintenance will be deducted, pound for pound, from income support. Critics will argue that this is to put the Treasury First, not the child-

ren. But the government would counter that it is through new proposals for family credit that lone mothers will draw comfort — and financial support.

The clear strategy of the government is to reduce the dependency of lone mothers on income support by encouraging them to get jobs and escape from dependency through a package of employment, child benefit, easier access to family credit and maintenance. Thus it proposes to reduce the hours of work at which family credit becomes accessible, from 2 to 16, while allowing, in addition, maintenance payments of £15 to be deducted for family credit purposes.

No father should be able to escape from his responsibilities, but should this, rather than tackling one-parent family poverty be the principal aim of maintenance policy? The needs of children must be placed squarely centre stage: such maintenance measures for their own sake and meanness dressed up as morality are no basis for sound family policy. No government should be able to escape from its responsibilities.

The author is director of the Family Policy Studies Centre.

Why we cannot count on Gorbachev in the Gulf

Despite the apparently united approach, James Sherr believes Moscow is anxious for Saddam's survival



Saddam, representing an oil threat to the West, a safe neighbour to Primakov and his masters

Those who see the Soviet Union as the West's virtual ally in the Gulf may be disappointed to find that Mr Gorbachev's roving emissary in the area is Yevgeni Primakov. For he is not only a member of the Gorbachev presidential council and a pillar of "new thinking", but a seasoned expert on the Middle East with an impeccable pedigree. As director of the Soviet Union's Institute of Oriental Studies and other bodies concerned with foreign affairs, he has for 25 years played a key role in harnessing academic expertise to the state's interests.

Is Mr Primakov serving different interests today? If, as many now suggest, the Soviet Union is teaming up with the West against Saddam, we must assume that he is. Indeed, one can only assume that the interests of a virtual ally are virtually identical to our own.

Yet no analysis by the Primakov school supports this assumption, and for a very practical reason. Western interests in the Gulf are derived from oil; Soviet interests from proximity. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait may disturb and even outrage the Soviet Union, but does not threaten it. What does threaten the Soviet Union is the domination of a region on its borders by America and its allies.

Today, Moscow's priority is not to punish (let alone destroy) Saddam Hussein, but to prevent such an alliance from reaping the benefits of Saddam's folly. Whereas London, Washington and Cairo fear that war might fail to dislodge Saddam, the Soviet fear is that it might succeed.

With an attitude such as this, the Soviets cannot be said to be virtual allies at all. Yet their fear makes it extremely unlikely that they would have connived in the invasion of Kuwait in the first place, as some American analysts suspect. That they knew of it in advance, however, there can be little doubt. Before August, the Soviet military advisory group in Iraq under Major General A. Bannikov deployed officers down to regimental level probably numbering hundreds more than the 193 that Moscow admits. Like all such Soviet contingents the Bannikov group would have in-

cluded officers of the KGB Third Chief Directorate (Counter-Intelligence Directorate). With their own agent networks in the Iraqi armed forces and reporting channels to Moscow.

The Iraqi intelligence and security services (themselves virtual KGB creations) are penetrated by other KGB departments, and given this KGB presence, it is almost inconceivable that an anti-Gorbachev faction to the general staff could have kept Mr Gorbachev in the dark, even if it had wished to.

Why, then, did Mr Gorbachev keep the West in the dark? We would do better to ask what might have been accomplished by alerting the West. Mr Gorbachev's policies during the Iran-Iraq war showed him to be a "common home" but as a region of clashing cultures, ideologies and interests. In Eastern Europe, clients could be abandoned in the expectation of

greater gain; but would betrayal of Iraq assuredly lead to greater gains? The likelihood would have to be very considerable, because the regime that Mr Gorbachev heads is under pressure and at risk. Given the risk, he seems to have gambled that he would do better to profit from other people's actions than to act himself.

Thus far, by managing to condemn Iraq without opposing it, Mr Gorbachev has gambled well, to the benefit of new Soviet global objectives as well as his regional ones. These global objectives are often presented in the West in narrow economic terms, but they are more ambitious: the exchange of costly, depreciating geo-strategic assets for profitable and long-term geo-political gains. How can the Soviet Union exchange one for the other? Increasingly, one medium of exchange will be the Soviet Union's own untapped oil, gas and mineral wealth. If the Gulf is seen as inherently unstable by Japan and America's other allies,

the geo-political consequences may be profound. With Japan concerned about the unreliability of Gulf oil supplies and recentral of American pressure, the case for developing the Siberian fields is becoming stronger. That case may be strengthened further by Mr Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Japan next year, and territorial concessions by the Soviet Union could make it unanswerable.

The second and more significant medium of exchange is simply the demilitarisation of Soviet policy itself. Since 1985 Gorbachev has emphasised the necessity to achieve security by political rather than military means. This change is a blessing, for without it, Saddam's enemies would risk war on a larger scale than they presently contemplate.

Yet what Mr Gorbachev calls "political means" are not always benign. It is by such means — and such astuteness — that the Soviets have increased their stature, influence and freedom of man-

oeuvre since Saddam invaded Kuwait. First, Moscow realised that America would be willing to pay a price for the public appearance of US-Soviet partnership and for a modicum of collaboration in practice. Secondly, the Soviets, unlike the architects of UN sanctions, realised that time would not favour the anti-Saddam coalition, that a prolonged American deployment would radicalise the region, that the task of keeping Israel at arm's length would prove unmanageable and that, in time, pressures would grow to resolve the issue of Kuwait's conquest rather than reverse it. Thirdly, they were aware that the gap between appearance and reality is greater in the Middle East than in most places, and that for Saddam, a face-saving defeat would be no defeat at all.

On the strength of these insights, the Soviets have played a shrewd and careful hand. While acting on American urging, they have strengthened their ties with American enemies. While demanding unconditional withdrawal by Iraq, they have lobbied for conditions. While denying any Kuwaiti-Palestinian linkage, they have done everything possible to establish one. This is all they are bound to have told Saddam that he must give up his conquest if he is to survive at all.

The Soviets can say with justice that only they can talk to all sides. But to what end? The preferred Soviet solution would have five elements: Iraq's "unconditional" withdrawal from Kuwait; agreement on completion of this withdrawal for the removal of all foreign forces introduced after August 2; American and EC agreement to work towards a conference on the Palestinian question; discussion of Iraqi territorial claims, and the holding of an election in Kuwait. But at worst, the Soviets would prefer any settlement to war and the destruction of their client. The West has been driven to a point where its chief interest is to destroy Saddam Hussein. The chief interest of the Soviet Union is to prevent it doing so.

The author is lecturer in international relations in Lincoln College, Oxford.

Frost seeks a prize scalp

Almost three months after the invasion of Kuwait, a contest is on to decide who secures the first live interview with Saddam Hussein for British television. The BBC, ITN and TV-am have all made formal requests.

David Frost hopes to be the first Briton into the presidential palace with a powder puff and clipboard for his *Frost on Sunday* programme on TV-am. He faces particular stiff competition from BBC foreign affairs editor John Simpson, who was the first British television broadcaster to set foot in Baghdad and has the advantage of still being there. Furthermore, Simpson hopes that the BBC's reputation for impartiality — overseas, at least, if not at home — will persuade the media-manipulative Saddam to ask him in.

Whoever is granted the interview, it will be transmitted by television stations around the world. Saddam, however, is playing hard to get, and is likely to lay down strict conditions. A spokeswoman for the Iraqi embassy in London said yesterday: "Many TV stations have put in bids to interview the president. We do not think conditions are right at the moment, but the situation is constantly under review."

Frost hopes his reputation as the only broadcaster to have interviewed the last five American presidents and the last four British prime ministers — not to mention Mikhail Gorbachev — will persuade Saddam to join his gallery of the greats.

ITN meanwhile says: "We put in a request even before our team cleared customs at Baghdad

airport. We will put our big guns on this one. It will be Trevor McDonald."

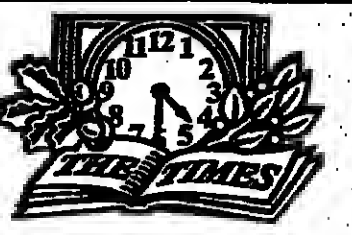
Since it is American public opinion he most needs to influence, Saddam may of course leave the entire British contingent out in the cold and open the door again in Dan Rather, who interviewed him for CBS in early September.

● *Tory MP Ann Widdecombe must have thought herself safe as she relaxed by a swimming pool, sipping an exotic drink, on the Malaysian island of Penang. "It's a good job my constituents cannot see me now," she sighed to her niece. She spoke too soon. A loud voice from behind replied: "We can." It was a large tattooed gentleman, a regular visitor at her surgeries. "I have been on the island all week watching your every move," he said. Let's hope Miss Widdecombe had not uttered too many indiscretions about the voters she was so happy to be away from.*

That's life

Less than two years after her death, Daphne du Maurier, mistress of romantic rivalry, is at the centre of a clash between rival biographers. Margaret Forster was appointed du Maurier's official biographer earlier this year, but journalist and playwright Judith Cooke has been beavering away even longer at a more personal account. "Judith lives in the West Country, knew Daphne and has access to local people that Margaret Forster does not," says her publisher, Bantam.

Mr Forster, biographer of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, is unconcerned. "Judith Cooke has no source material," she says. "As



DIARY

official biographer, I have access to all letters and Daphne's friends and family. Judith Cooke is relying on her own memories. I think she met Daphne du Maurier once."

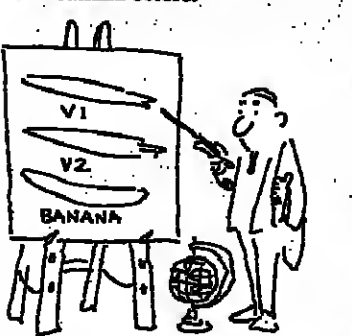
Forster estimates she will spend at least another year on research before putting pen to paper. "My book will not be ready before 1992 at the earliest," Cooke's, however, will be in the shops next July. "I shall read it with interest," says Forster magnanimously. "It's always interesting to see what the other writers come up with."

Miracle worker

After the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Blitz is about to be commemorated in the country's worst-bombed cities. Next Wednesday a reunion will be held at Westminster Central Hall of as many survivors as can be traced of the 2,000 people who sheltered each night in the cellar. Some had been bombed out and lived there for much of the war.

The minister in charge throughout the war was Dr William Sangster, who took up his appointment the day war was declared and had barely faced his congregation when the first air raid siren sounded —

false alarm though it was. His son Paul, also a Methodist minister, recalls Dr Sangster returning from a visit to Ireland in 1944 with a banana, an unheard-of luxury at the time. To give as many as possible a taste, he cut it into almost 200 pieces. "It seems ridiculous now," says Paul Sangster, "but most small children then had never seen a banana before."



Megaphone theology

David Jenkins, Bishop of Durham, is to re-enter the political fray with a fresh diatribe against the values of a market-led society. For his first address in Westminster Abbey, he will speak on November 14 on "Wealth, value and worship". As the title suggests, the bishop's megaphone will be pointed towards Parliament next door.

A spokeswoman for Dr Jenkins says he will be pursuing some theological reflections about the connection between money-making, wealth and the future of human society — reflections that seem unlikely to allay Tory suspicions that he is a closet socialist. On his enthronement in 1984, he appealed for a compromise in the miners' strike, which, he said, was

crippling his diocese, and a sermon on God and Mammon at a St. John church three years later was widely interpreted as an attack on Mrs Thatcher.

So as the war of Jenkins' mouth continues, it seems the bishop's attack in the next bout will be just as predictable as the response of Tory MPs. Yawn.

Still piling it on

Before voting last night on the dog registration clause in the Environmental Protection Bill, MPs could hardly fail to notice the re-run of the ghoulish RSPCA newspaper advertisements showing a heap of dead dogs over the message "Registration is better than extermination". But there was a slight difference from the original, published last year. That affronted not only the squeamish but led the Advertising Standards Authority to censure the RSPCA for saying in the advertisement that 1,000 dogs were being destroyed in Britain "every day". The RSPCA, said the authority, had no facts to support the claim. While denying that it has bowed to the ASA ruling, or to anything else, the RSPCA has now substituted the words "Thousands of unwanted dogs are still being put down every week".

● *While fond memories have inspired Oxford graduates to cough up £100 million for their alma mater, they will be less enamoured by the entreaties of the hard-sell merchants in the latest Oxford Today appeal magazine. It is bursting with advertisements for everything from a Radcliffe Camera teapot to an "eligibility discount" certificate for the Encyclopaedia Britannica. So who says knowledge never comes cheap?*

هذا من لاجل



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CHILDREN ARE FOR LIFE

The government wishes to compel fathers to pay maintenance for their abandoned children. If it succeeds in this ambition, set out in a white paper yesterday, it could do more than the fear of Aids to inhibit male sexual misbehaviour. Behind the argument of the document lies the simple equation: sex can mean children, children cost money, parents should pay. Whatever the reason for bringing a child into the world, responsibility for its upkeep should rest, as far as is practicable, with the parents, rather than with taxpayers who may have their own families to support. This may be bad luck on the man who had no intention of fathering a child or, worse, who had been led to believe that the mother had no intention of mothering a child. But if the child exists, its interests must be paramount.

The white paper suggests that a maintenance bill should be calculated for families with an absent parent. The absent father (it is only occasionally a mother, though the same rules would apply to her) should pay this, and a little more if he can. If he cannot afford the whole bill, he should pay half of whatever income is left after deducting modest living costs for himself and any other natural children he may have. The idea that first families should not be left to rely on the state while the father expends his earnings on a second family is right. So is the principle that absent parents, if they cannot give love and companionship to their children, should at least pay for them.

The prospect of having to hand over half their disposable income for the next 16 or so years to the mother will undoubtedly make men more responsible for contraception (and thus, coincidentally, reduce the spread of heterosexual Aids). But it may cause havoc among those who have already acted irresponsibly in the past.

The legislation is to be retroactive, applying to parents of children already born. Married men may have to admit to their wives that they have an illegitimate child to whom much of their income will now have to be channelled. Their family may even break up as a result. Mothers who have not told the natural father that he has a child will have to do so on pain of losing 20 per cent of state income support. Deserted mothers who prefer to rely on an

assured welfare payment from the state will now have to squeeze payment out of erratic and reluctant fathers. Unless they are working, they may also be no better off for this: state income support will be withdrawn pound for pound once maintenance is paid. Women who genuinely do not know who is the father of their child may not be believed, and will have their benefit docked. Others may be too scared to name the father because he has threatened violence.

Incentives, not punishment, should be used to encourage women to name fathers and seek maintenance. If mothers on income support were allowed to keep, say, £10 a week of maintenance before it simply replaced the benefit they were already receiving, most would want to win that maintenance money. Only in the most sensitive cases would mothers opt to stay on welfare. The fine for not naming the father would turn into a lost opportunity. The Treasury would still save money.

Given Tories' natural ambivalence over family policy, it is good to read that "the government believes that it should act to encourage parents who wish to achieve greater independence by going to work." Yet the encouragement given — that mothers can keep £15 of maintenance before family credit starts to be withdrawn — is not enough even to cover the childcare costs of going to work. Fifteen pounds is too small a sum to achieve the laudable aim of encouraging single parents to become self-sufficient.

The central aim of this policy must be to end unnecessary dependence on the state, dependence that is rarely welcome even to the women involved. Britain must avoid creating the "dependency culture" underclass that has become so entrenched in America. Saving the Treasury money should be a secondary objective, a worthwhile concomitant of promoting family stability and responsibility and avoiding dependency. More flexibility, at the expense of lower short-term savings, would allow more single parents to support themselves, with or without assistance from absent fathers. This, in the long run, will support the family and bring the best deal to the Treasury and the state.

THE EUROPEAN GREENHOUSE

Britain is ahead of at least half the European Community countries in its programme to stabilise emissions of carbon dioxide, the environment secretary, Chris Patten, declared yesterday before a meeting with his continental counterparts in Luxembourg. On the contrary, replied his Labour shadow, Bryan Gould, in an open letter to the other 11 environment ministers: Britain "should be isolated as the dirty man of Europe". Mr Patten argues that the British commitment to stabilise by 2005 will be kept, whereas promises by other member states to achieve the same target by 2000 are not worth the paper they are written on. The European environment commissioner, Carlo Ripa di Meana, undercuts this British caution "disgraceful". Who is right?

The answer is politically sensitive and technically complex. There is now a green virility factor at work, with countries and political parties vying with each other to be toughest in their targets. Labour has already undercut Mr Patten's bid by promising to stabilise by 2000, the informal target agreed last month by all EC states except Britain.

There is, of course, a world of difference between giving undertakings which will not have to be honoured for a decade, and imposing measures here and now which will reduce industrial competitiveness with countries that are less scrupulous about keeping their word. The modest quota of detail in Mr Patten's recent white paper showed that the prime minister remains convinced that Britain will deal with global warming, but gradually. Impatience towards Britain is as inevitable as is scepticism towards the rest of the EC.

While some of the richest European countries — including several outside the EC — have made specific promises that go well beyond Britain's target, most have merely subscribed to the 2000 deadline proposed by the commission without bothering much with the consequences. Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland all expect to pass on much of the cost of stabilising emissions to their richer partners. Eastern Germany will hardly meet the 2000

deadline. While Japan has agreed to match the EC deadline (but only with emissions per head), both the largest producers of CO₂ — the United States and the Soviet Union — still reject all targets. Except for Canada, Australia and New Zealand, so do most of the rest.

Labour's "dirty man" gibe is thus hyperbolic and Mr Patten's retort is apt that Mr Gould cannot square his costly pledge with his party's economic responsibility, its aversion to nuclear energy and its love of (dirty) coal. But if Mr Patten wants to make the case that Britain intends to deliver what it promises more conscientiously than will its partners, he should provide concrete evidence of this intent and of other countries' backsliding. He must ask himself, and his notoriously un-green cabinet colleagues, whether the government is not underestimating British willingness to make sacrifices to protect such universal goods as the atmosphere, the sea and the rivers.

In part, this official myopia marks a generational gap. Most young people now accept environmental hygiene as axiomatic, as the young once challenged their elders to accept the desirability of wealth redistribution from rich to poor. Now, as then, it is taken for granted that the state should be responsible for achieving the goal. But British ministers are allowing Brussels, not London, to become the acknowledged agency for all things green.

This is a nonsense. The intensity of public interest in the environment should not permit Brussels to usurp sovereignty over subjects more appropriate to national or local government. For stabilising CO₂ emissions, European norms are useful as part of a global negotiation. They may also help where the aim is to reduce acid rain or to purify the North Sea, the Baltic and the Mediterranean. European intervention should not be necessary over clean beaches or drinking water, let alone rural planning or — latest Brussels obsession — the fate of the English magpie. Mr Patten should work out the role of subsidiarity in the European environment. Then Britain might contribute constructively to a debate still in its infancy.

NORTHMEN ADRIFT

Like Margaret Thatcher, the Norwegian prime minister, Jan Syse, is having trouble with Europe, big trouble. Yesterday his coalition government fell. His own Conservative party is solidly pro-European. The Christian People's party is split. The third partner in the coalition, the Centre party (the old farmers' party) could no longer contain its hostility to any form of negotiation with the European Community. The precarious arithmetic of Mr Syse's majority in the Storting collapsed.

Norwegian opinion on joining the EC has never divided on party lines. When entry was first mooted, at much the same time as in Britain, there were those whose unswerving Lutheranism made no distinction between the Treaty of Rome and the Scarlet Woman of the same address. On the Norwegian equivalent of the far left, suspicion of the Catholic south took a different form. If we associate with such people, they asked, how long will it be before they tinker with our liberal abortion laws?

The vote, in 1972, went against. Norway returned with some relief to the comfortable semi-detachment with which, in modern times, its people have felt most at home. Against the putative advantages of community membership could be set the benefits of North Sea oil and gas, pumped ashore in prodigious quantities, and the wider advantages of sovereignty in world trade.

Norwegian separatism is partly rooted in geography. In a land of mountains, valleys and fjords, people find isolation a natural way of

life. Before the railways came — not until 1909 — a citizen of Bergen took a week to sail round the coast to his capital, Oslo. He could reach Scotland in half the time. Long Danish ascendancy in Scandinavia and 150 years of second-class citizenship under the Swedish flag have left their mark on Norway's sense of identity. Norwegians have been fully independent only since 1905. Until well into this century, Norway tended to look to Germany as its cultural mentor. Since the Nazi occupation, an almost uninterrupted succession of socialist governments have tended to turn to Britain.

Yet to accuse the Norwegians of being inward-looking is absurd. There was nothing isolationist about the Vikings, the Northmen who extended their trade westwards across the Atlantic and eastwards through Russia to Turkey and the Mediterranean. In this century, Nansen, Amundsen and Heyerdahl were hardly lacking in global outreach.

Norway's politicians now have to struggle again to balance participation in the changing European economy with the protection of a hard-won nationhood. In doing so they will have to endure the taunts of those who accuse them — together with British sceptics of European integration — of archaic provincialism. In the independent spirit of their ancestors, they should ignore these taunts. Norway should be a paradigm of outward-looking European free trade, an example to the protectionist European Community. It should show that there can be life beyond Brussels.

Britain alone on monetary union

From Dr F. A. Mann, FBA

Sir, In view of what happened in Rome it is timely to explain why it is that the Prime Minister had to treat monetary union, to use your words (leading article, October 29), "as so much diplomatic espionage, waffle which can be agreed today and disregarded tomorrow".

In the first place the new central bank, in charge of the single currency, will have to have a directorate. Are its decisions to be reached by a majority or by unanimous vote? No country least of all the Germans, could agree to a majority vote.

If unanimity is required no important decision would ever be reached — see what happened in the field of agricultural policy. To require the directors to be "independent" is more verbiage. Can you imagine, for instance, the Greek delegate ignoring vital Greek interests in order to assist the Irish?

Secondly, paragraph 30 of the Delors report states clearly that monetary union "could only operate on the basis of mutually consistent and sound behaviour of governments". For this purpose "policy constraints" and in the budgetary field "binding rules are required".

The whole long paragraph merits careful study and reflection. It makes it clear that monetary union means the end of nations and as the Prime Minister so wittily and so rightly put it, the introduction of a federal state by a back-door.

Thirdly, monetary union requires "sufficient conformity of action in fiscal and economic policy" (which includes, for instance, central control over foreign resources) and "over time... the necessary transfer of economic and fiscal responsibilities for national authorities to Community organs". These are the words of Herr Karl Otto Pöhl in his paper annexed to the Delors report.

He sums up the economic policy implications of monetary union as follows:

A monetary union presupposes considerable shifts in the responsibility for economic policy to a central authority and hence a far-reaching reshaping of the Community in political and institutional terms in the direction of a broader union. Although complete political union is not absolutely necessary for the establishment of a monetary union, the loss of national sovereignty in economic and monetary policy associated with it is so serious that it would probably be bearable only in the context of extremely close and irrevocable political integration.

At all events, within a monetary

union, monetary policy can only be conducted at a Community level. A substantial transfer of authority will also be necessary in the field of fiscal policy.

This is obviously correct and in line with the Prime Minister's attitude. It is disingenuous to ignore the realities and agree, for instance, on a date for monetary union, although it is plain that its detailed requirements and consequences are likely to prove unworkable.

Yours faithfully,
F. A. MANN,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
October 29.

From Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for Kent East (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, No one wants the situation in which Britain, unwilling to accept a fixed date for monetary union, is left in some outer fringe of the EC with all the adverse implications that would have for our financial institutions and exporting industries.

It is because of this that the British proposal for the "hard ecu" with its associated common institutions is so important, as with a small but significant modification to the British position the hard ecu could become the cornerstone of a solution of great benefit to Britain and its partners alike.

We should not only advocate that the EC should adopt the hard ecu as a common currency (alongside national currencies) in all member states, but that each member state would, in the light of its own economic and political situation, decide when "the time is right" to adopt the hard ecu as its single currency. We could, in addition, retain our pound sterling as the "national manifestation" of this single currency.

Such a time could be long postponed or, as I and others believe, relatively rapid in view of the competitive advantages to the City of London and to businesses and private individuals in terms of the savings in transaction costs and uncertainties over exchange rates. The decision for Britain would rest with Britain alone.

The flexibility thus gained would be of benefit not only to current members of the EC but also to new members, for whom accession to a single currency could be a matter of difficulty.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
(Deputy Chairman),
European Democratic Group,
European Parliament,
97-113 rue Belliard,
1040 Brussels, Belgium,
October 29.

Getting about

From Councillor Nick Carthew

Sir, Mr Fillingham's journey from Yateley via central London to Huddersfield (October 22) would have taken him some two and a half hours by public transport. It probably would have cost some £15 for the return fares plus a bit of shoe leather.

If he had travelled by car he would have covered some 100 miles and spent approximately £4.50 in fuel and depreciation. With the speed of traffic in London today he may not have saved an appreciable amount of time.

What some politicians are calling for is that to enjoy the convenience of using his motor car, Mr Fillingham pays maybe an extra £5 on entering London. The revenue thus raised should be ploughed back into providing an efficient, fast and cheap public transport system which would force any person wishing to travel

into London to weigh up the cost of convenience against that of the money and time saved travelling by bus and rail.

Until this equation can truly be made London's traffic problems will continue to grow. This is not political doctrine just common sense.

Yours faithfully,
N. CARTEW,
33 Salisbury Road,
Richmond, Surrey,
October 22.

From Mr Paul Mitchell

Sir, I agree with Mr Magrath (October 22), but cycling is not good for one's clothes. Even in a panier, a suit and freshly ironed shirt travel badly. Can a reader suggest how I might cycle to work and look respectable on arrival?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL MITCHELL,
8 Kingston Court,
West Hallam,
Derby,
October 22.

Firemen and fraud

From the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority

Sir, The two articles you published on October 22 gave the misleading impression that, since the arson investigation unit was disbanded, the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority is taking no action to investigate such claims. Nothing could be further from the truth.

From the inception of the authority in 1986 its practice has been that such claims should be investigated rigorously. Since the in-house investigation unit (which did not handle all cases) was disbanded in April 1989, all investigations have been handled by private enquiry agents who have proved effective and given value for money.

The authority has an excellent and improving safety record. The causes of all accidents to members of the brigade are thoroughly investigated by brigade officers when they occur. The success of our policies was shown by a decrease in accidents from 3,159 in 1985 to 1,838 in 1988. This has significantly reduced the number of compensation claims which can subsequently be made.

My 1989 report said the unit was "considerably more effective than private enquiry agents", as you state. It did not, however, claim that private enquiry agents were ineffective, and in fact proposed that such agents continue to be used in a proportion of cases. Undertaking such investigations internally does have certain drawbacks, particularly for those officers who subsequently wish to return to normal duties and who may face difficulties from their colleagues.

Last July the Fire Brigades Union announced that it had won over £5.25 million in compensation for its members. This is a

national figure and not that paid by the LFCA. The continuing effectiveness of the authority's rigorous defence of claims is shown by a reduction in 1989 in both the number of compensation claims made (18 per cent down) and the amount of damages paid (20 per cent down, in cash terms alone) in comparison to 1988. That downward trend has continued in 1990.

Financial savings claimed were notional only, based on possible damages payable should plaintiffs' cases have been upheld in full. Similar notional savings arising from work by private enquiry agents showed savings of £195,000 in four cases, calculated on the same basis as my original report. Private investigation is therefore saving the authority significant sums.

Finally, it was I who decided to recommend to the authority that the unit be disbanded, taking into account elected members' concerns. My second report to the authority (March 1990) stated that, notwithstanding this decision, "the head of legal services and I, supported by our board colleagues, are clear that surveillance will need to continue in appropriate cases to protect the authority's and community charge payers' interests". The authority did not dissent from this view and investigations and surveillance still take place in all appropriate cases.

London community charge payers should therefore be clear that the authority and its officers will take all necessary action to investigate any claim for personal injury compensation where doubt exists.

Yours sincerely,
G. D. CLARKSON,
Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive,
London Fire and Civil Defence Authority,
Albert Embankment, SE1.

Macmillan role in Cossack deaths

From Mr Alistair Horne

Sir, Daniel Johnson ("Macmillan: a vindication that came too late", October 19) was quite correct to record that, exactly two years ago, I did call upon Nikolai Tolstoy to retract, publicly, his two major allegations against Macmillan. These were, that he had "conspired" to send back the "White Russians" and Yugoslavs — thereby deliberately deceiving Churchill and Alexander; and, secondly, the disgraceful innuendo in *The Minister and the Massacres* that an ex-prime minister had been acting in the thrall of the KGB.

No such retraction has ever been forthcoming: nor, in my opinion, does Tolstoy in his riposte ("Damned by Macmillan's own diary", October 27) in any way address himself to either of these two specific charges.

Eight years ago, when I began writing the reparations chapter in my official biography of Harold Macmillan, many documents appeared to be missing. But one thing seemed to be quite clear to me: far too many people, at various army echelons, would have been "in the know" for the kind of "conspiracy" alleged by Tolstoy conceivably to have occurred.

By amassing scores of the missing documents, the Cowell report has — if nothing else — rendered quite untenable the charges of conspiracy against Macmillan, let alone the grosser libel.

As Daniel Johnson also pointed out, Macmillan's last years were made a misery by the Tolstoy allegations. Great distress, too, was caused to his family and friends. Surely, for their sake — though it may have been too late for Macmillan to be vindicated in his lifetime — it is not too late for his reputation to be cleared.

If Nikolai Tolstoy will not now either retract or substantiate these two allegations against Mac-

millan, then may I suggest that half-a-dozen of those professional historians — to whom he refers with respect — be invited to read and judge the 300 underlying documents of the Cowell report and perhaps seek the hospitality of your columns with their findings? It seems to me that this might indeed be the only way of resolving this tragic and poisonous issue, once and for all.

Yours etc.,
ALISTAIR HORNE,
The Old Vicarage,
Turville,
Nr Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
October 27.

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Writing of the forced repatriation of captured Cossack and White Russian troops in 1945, Mr Daniel Johnson says:

Interviewing an unprepared Macmillan in 1984, Ludovic Kennedy relied entirely on Count Tolstoy's tendentious interpretation. Closely quizzed, Macmillan was made to appear evasive...

If Mr Johnson had had the courtesy to telephone me before he published this, I would have told him that far from being unprepared, Mr Macmillan said that he would be happy to be questioned on any matter arising from his book *War Diaries* which was the subject of the interview.

I did not rely entirely, or indeed at all, on something that Count Tolstoy had written, for at that time I had not read anything he had written (*The Minister and the Massacres* was not published until 1986). If Macmillan was evasive in his replies, he had every reason to be, for he had written in his *War Diaries* that the repatriation of the Russian troops was "condemning them to slavery, torture and probably death".

Yours etc.,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown,
Avebury, Wiltshire.

Criticism of the Court of Appeal

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Having sat in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, for 19 years, I was surprised to learn from the chairman of the executive committee of Justice (October 25) that the court operated under self-imposed limitations and that it is "really only concerned to correct procedural irregularities".

It operates under the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and exercises all the powers given by that Act and no other. It has no power to re-try cases and it has to accept the findings of fact implicit in juries' verdicts.

Juries do make mistakes, more often in acquitting than in convicting. If juries made reasoned judgments, which a judge sitting alone has to do, there would be fewer miscarriages of justice. Trial by jury and an efficient appeal system do not go well together.

The common law seems to have appreciated that this was so and made no provision for appeals except on points of law. There is a case for enlarging the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal; but any change would probably erode the status of juries' verdicts.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York.

From the Master of the Rolls

Sir, Mr Lakeman's letter (October 25) criticises the Court of Appeal for rejecting the approach of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, when giving its decision in the case of *In re J (a Minor)*.

It is not for judges to seek to justify their decisions by statements outside court and I do not seek to do so. It may, however, be right on occasion to correct factual errors which could cause widespread distress, such as that upon which Mr Lakeman's criticism is based.

The Court of Appeal in fact gratefully accepted and applied

the decision of the Canadian court. Mr Justice McKenzie of that court had cited a sentence from a United States judgment reading: "In this case, the court must decide what its word would choose if it were in a position to make a second judgment". He continued:

This last sentence puts it right. It is not appropriate for an external decision-maker to apply his standards of what constitutes a livable life and exercise the right to impose death if that standard is not met in his estimation. The decision can only be made in the context of the disabled person viewing the world-wholeness or otherwise of his life in its own context as a disabled person — and in that context he would not compare his life with that of a person enjoying normal advantages. He would know nothing of a normal person's life having never experienced it.

In giving my own reasons I set out this question in full and continued:

I am in complete agreement with the learned judge that the starting point is not what might have been, but what is. He was considering the best interests of a severely handicapped child, not of a normal child, and the latter's feelings and interests were irrelevant. The choice is that of the parent, if of full age and capacity. The choice is that of the parents or court, if, by reasons of his age, the child cannot make the choice and it is a choice which must be made solely on behalf of the child; and in what the court or parents conscientiously believe to be his best interests.

Lord Justice Taylor said: The test must be whether the child in question, if capable of exercising sound judgment, would consider the life tolerable. This is the approach adopted by McKenzie J. in the Canadian case. It takes account of the strong instinct to preserve one's life even in circumstances which an outsider, not himself at risk of death, might consider unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,
DONALDSON OF LYMINGTON,
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2.

Broadcasting bill

From Ms Amanda Jordan and Ms Amanda Bennett

Sir, The debate on the broadcasting bill in recent weeks has been dominated by the issue of political impartiality. Our concern is that if the Government do not restore to the bill in the Lords tomorrow the positive programme requirements for future ITV companies to show documentaries, social action and programmes of an educational purpose, our future broadcasting system could lose any cutting edge of any political persuasion.

If, as everyone expects, revenue is scarce in the new competitive broadcasting environment these often more expensive programmes which don't always attract mass audiences could go. If the Government don't believe that will happen, why have they given special protection to children and religious programmes which also do not attract mass audiences but are an essential part of our broadcasting system?

The House of Lords has already accepted the need for these positive programme requirements. We hope that they will do so again tomorrow in the interests of a fair and balanced broadcasting system for us all.

Yours faithfully,
AMANDA JORDAN,
AMANDA BENNETT,
Third World and Environment
Broadcasting Project,
c/o International Broadcasting
Trust,
2 Ferdinand Place, NW1,
October 29.

Philip Larkin's will

From Mr Roger Lewis

Sir, Mr John Whitehead (October 19) cannot know much about poetry and the mentality of poets if he believes Philip Larkin's early work should have been destroyed, as Larkin apparently wanted. To try and organise one's reputation from beyond the grave is a nonsense. Men of genius have no right to posthumous privacy.

Larkin would have been belittled if we had been denied his early verse. It is bad enough having to contend with destruction of his journals. On issues of merit, worth, expediency and delicacy of feeling, the dead artist must always be overruled.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER LEWIS,
Apple Tree House, 2 London Lane,
Ascott-under-Wychwood,
Oxfordshire.

Satanic fears

From Mrs Jenny Woolf

Sir, Mr MacNicol (October 29) can spend his Halloween safely in our little corner of London. I've just had a phone call to say that a holed-of satanism, the 12th Hampstead Brownies' Halloween party, has been cancelled due to flooding in the church hall.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY WOOLF,
17 Canfield Gardens, NW6,
October 29.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent in a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Growth ahead as barriers fall

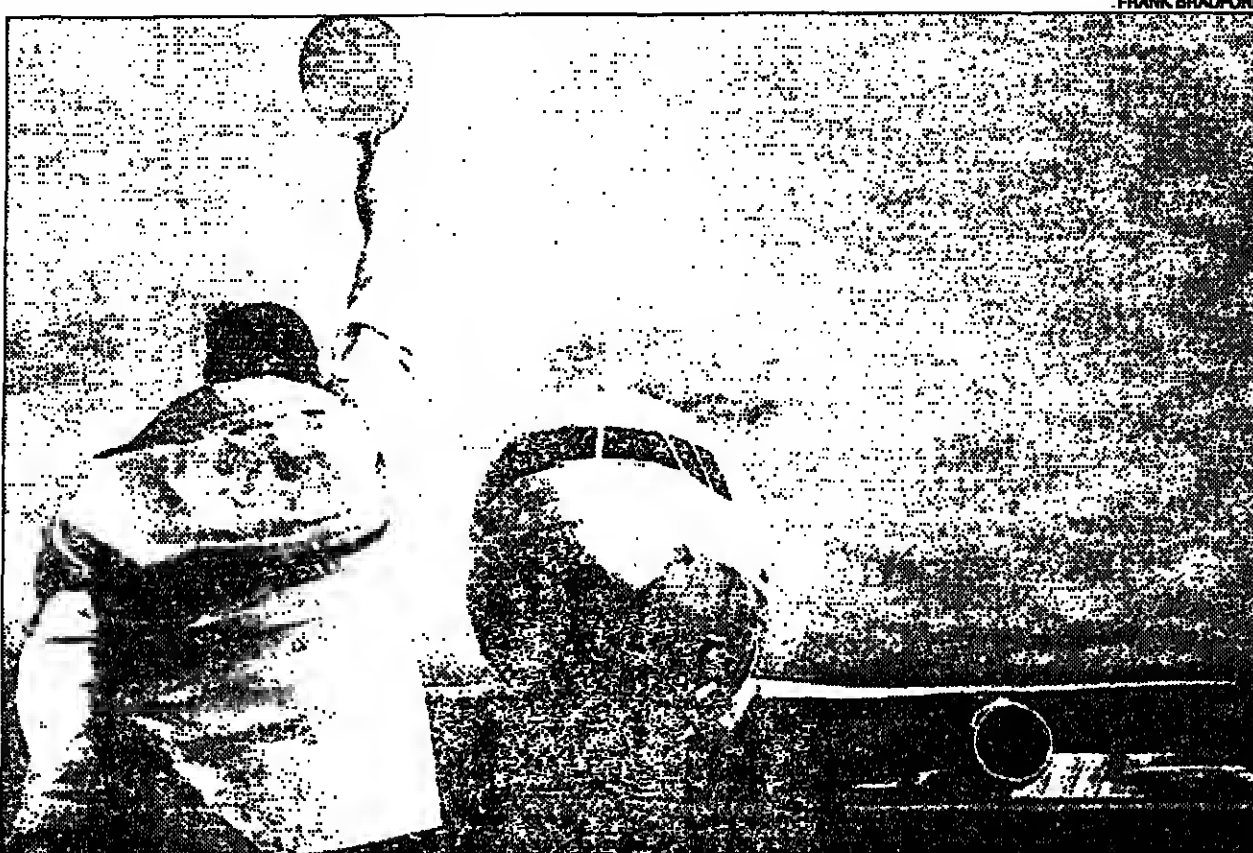
The lessening of restrictions between member countries of the European Community will boost opportunities, but there are new problems

Britain's regional airports are about to grow as the European Commission prepares to remove barriers to flights between its 12 member countries. Air traffic from the crowded London airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, is spilling over into the provinces as passengers are gaining a taste for flying in a new generation of small but roomy turbo-prop and jet airliners.

Those who run the regional airports worry, however, that expansion may be held back by factors as diverse as the fuel crisis after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which has doubled the kerosene price, the European Commission's proposal to abolish duty-free sales on routes within the Community, and the green movement's growing impact on operations.

Civil Aviation Authority paper CAP 570, issued in July to advise the government on airport and air-space capacity in the next 15 years, took the regional airports seriously. One conclusion was that their traffic would continue to grow fast, whether or not additional capacity was provided in the London area.

A third runway at Heathrow or a second at Gatwick would cut the forecast at Manchester in 2005 by three million passengers from an estimated 24 million. Birmingham's forecast 13 million could fall to nine million. Regional airports with less-developed networks were also expected to grow fast. CAP 570 said that, without extra London capacity, Bristol's traffic would rise from 700,000 passengers in 1988 to 2.5 million in 2000 and 3.6 million in



All systems go: the signs of steady growth are there as an aircraft taxis on the runway at Glasgow Airport

2005. An extra Heathrow runway would cut the 2005 figure by about 300,000, and one at Gatwick by 100,000.

However, CAP 570 concluded that extra capacity at regional airports would not be an effective substitute for extra capacity in the south-east. After the CAP report, Cecil Parkinson, the transport

secretary, formed a working group to explore the economic and environmental issues influencing decisions on extra runways for the south-east.

Mr Parkinson said he would ask the group to gauge how big a part regional airports could play in meeting the overall growth of demand into the next century. The Joint Air-

ports Committee of Local Authorities (Jacola) estimated that 15 of Britain's leading regional airports together could handle up to 77 million passengers by 2000, compared with 29.5 million now. Expansion schemes approved among the 15 would take the annual figure to 41.4 million. Traffic in and out of the

regional airports is 70 per cent business, says the European Regional Airlines Association, whose 43 airline members carry 10.5 million passengers a year. There are 470,000 take-offs annually — more, the association claims, than those of British Airways, Lufthansa, or Air France. The association is worried by what it sees as

moves by the main "hub" airports, into which the small airlines feed passengers and freight from the regional airports, to squeeze its members out by imposing landing charges that do not differentiate between a Boeing 747 with 400 passengers and a Short 360 with 36 on board.

Some airports on mainland Europe, particularly Schiphol in Amsterdam, are saying they can take all-comers, without immediate price increases.

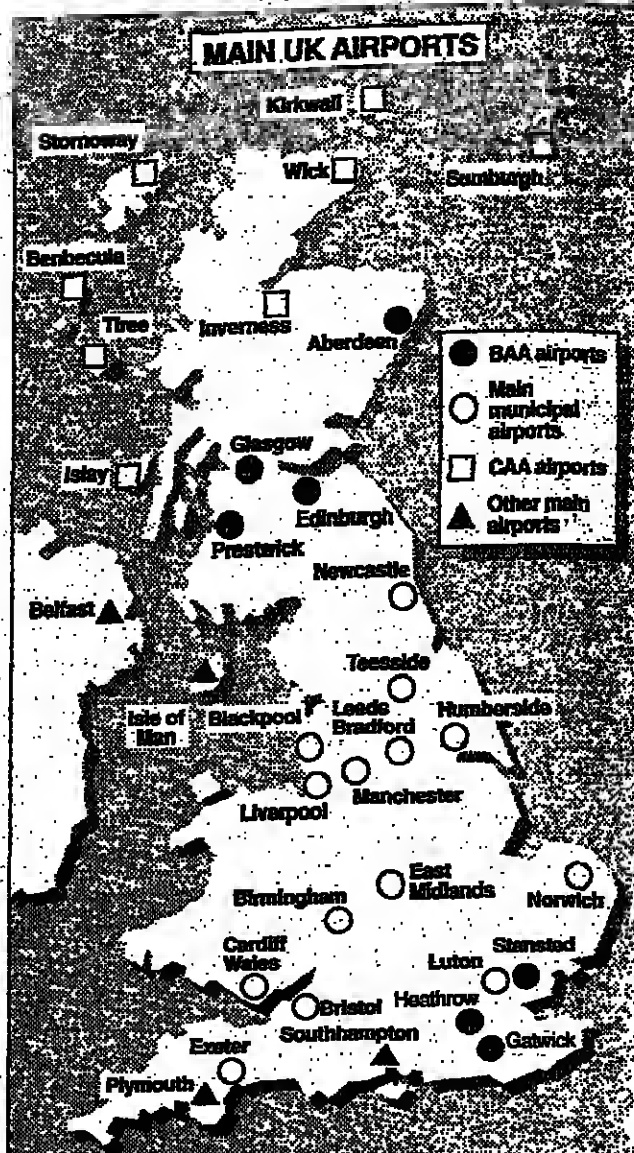
Mike Ambrose, the association's director-general, sees regional airlines connecting the big cities and regional airports as a way of stopping the drift from the provinces. "People all over the world are moving from the regions to the main concentrations, and the concentrations are breaking down because they were not designed to cope with such large populations," he says.

"If we are to stop, people have to be encouraged to live in more remote regions, which means they will need good transport connections to the main hubs."

Britain's regional airports, gearing up to play the bigger role envisaged for them when European civil aviation is liberalised on January 1, 1993, are flexing the commercial muscle they gained with

privatisation and are beginning a huge spending programme for new terminals, improved passenger facilities, extended runways and aircraft parking areas and upgraded links between the airports and the areas they serve.

They will also face large bills caused by new regula-



tions on security and sales of duty-free goods. The tightened security ordered by the government after Lockerbie will mean structural changes to buildings, expensive detection equipment and more staff. The banning of duty-free sales will also result in airport building alterations and the loss of income. The limited

options for recouping the loss are in two main categories: offering new ranges of non-durable goods, and raising landing and other aircraft-handling fees. The airlines will pass on the increases as higher fares and freight charges, and the airport administrators fear this will slow the buoyant growth.

CAPACITY OF THE AIRPORTS

Jacola analysis of potential capacity (millions of passengers per year)

Airport	Existing	Approved	Reasonably achievable
Birmingham	3.5	6.0	10.0
Blackpool	0.2	0.2	0.5
Bournemouth	0.75	0.75	1.5
Bristol	1.0	1.0	3.5
Cardiff	1.25	2.0	3.0
East Midlands	2.0	2.0	7.0
Exeter	0.35	0.35	0.65
Humbly Grove	0.25	0.25	0.75
Leeds/Bradford	1.5	2.5	3.5
Liverpool	0.6	0.6	5.0
Luton	3.5	5.0	10.0
Manchester	11.5	17.5	24.0
Newcastle	2.0	2.0	4.0
Norwich	0.4	0.6	0.8
Teesside	0.7	0.7	3.0

Businessmen welcome

THE MAIN London airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, are gradually closing their doors to small business aircraft in favour of airliners carrying 300 or 400 passengers at a time. However, the British Aerospace 125s, the Learjets, the Cessna Citations and similar craft used by companies to fly their staff and customers find a welcome at the regional airports.

Some other European airports have a similar policy. Brussels has asked business-aircraft operators for details of

their expansion plans so that it can meet their requirements. Milan's Linate airport allocates six of its 32 hourly take-off slots to business aircraft. An additional runway is to be built at Le Bourget, the former Paris international airport, which now caters almost entirely for the business sector.

Robert Slack, managing director of Field Aviation, a business aircraft handling and maintenance company based at Heathrow, says the users of business aircraft based at Heathrow are primarily inter-

national and multinational companies. "They are in London only for historical reasons, and it is feasible that if business aviation difficulties persist, they could locate their headquarters, and their future aviation investments, elsewhere than in the UK," he says.

The southeast has a range of other business airfields, such as Biggin Hill, Southend, Stansted, Northolt, Luton, Farnborough, Hatfield and Blackbushe, although some are limited in the hours they are allowed to open. A further problem for some is the length of the journey by road to connect with flights at Heathrow and Gatwick.

This is where the regional airports can score. As hubs such as Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle and Glasgow build up their networks of scheduled airline services, and still have runway and terminal space to spare, they will become increasingly attractive to the flying business executive wanting to make a quick change from his company's jet or turbo-prop on to a "jumbo" bound for America or an MD-80 going to Zurich or Rome.

Out with the image of noisy flying antiques

An important public-relations task for Britain's regional airports is to dispel the public mind of a lingering image of antiquated buildings and services operated by small, noisy and obsolete aircraft.

Most airports now have modern terminals served by a new generation of jet and jet-prop airliners, but many potential passengers, particularly in business, remain to be convinced.

Those who run the regional airports are aware that the business and leisure travellers are being stepped out of a Boeing 747 or Airbus A300 at Heathrow, expect to continue their journey to the regions on an aircraft with similar standards of comfort. A lot of passengers at most regional airports are changing planes. The figure at Birmingham, for instance, is 80 per cent.

Modern aircraft standards are being set by the Boeing 757s and McDonnell Douglas DC-9s, which British Airways and British Midland operate respectively in fierce com-

petition on the trunk routes to Scotland and Northern Ireland, by the British Aerospace 146s of Air UK, and by the Boeing Canada Dash 8s. Brynmor plans to introduce. These planes are a world away from older commuter models, which used to fly through, rather than over, the weather, and which had cabins described by one delegate to the recent annual meeting of the European Regional Airlines Association as "cigar tubes".

However, a great deal of upgrading work remains to be done in the cargo sector. While the overnight, small-freight airline, TNT, has introduced the 146, which has ultra-quiet jet engines, on its regional routes, too many of the older jets are still being converted, at the end of their useful passenger-carrying life, to freighters by other airlines. These are powered by engines that are uneconomical at a time of soaring fuel prices. They are also noisy, incensing the environmental lobbies that are becoming increasingly vociferous about most regional airports, so flying has to be limited during the night hours, and the full economic potential of the airports cannot be achieved.

The UK regional airports are being visited increasingly by modern airlines in the colours of foreign airlines after the liberalisation of the European Community air routes and a recent extension of the Bermuda transatlantic services agreement between Britain and the United States, which designated new gateway points in either country.

As a result of the discarding of the previously rigid rules covering air services from Britain to mainland Europe, planes from Air France, Lufthansa, the Scandinavian carrier SAS, and others are to be seen daily at many of the UK regional airports, while British airlines are opening more services linking provincial business centres with their opposite numbers on the Continent.

Acceptance by the aviation authorities on both sides of the Atlantic that twin-engine airliners, such as the Boeing 767 and the Airbus A310, are safe to operate on long over-water routes is making it economic for airlines to fly between regional airports in Britain and gateway cities in the United States, other than the traditional landing points of New York, Washington and Los Angeles.

The rule that transatlantic services out of Scotland had to put down at Prestwick was dropped by the British government, so Glasgow now has direct BA services to New York, to Boston by Northeast Airlines, to Chicago by American Airlines and to Halifax and Toronto by Air Canada.

Manchester's list of long-haul services includes daily services to New York by BA and to Chicago by American Airlines. Other airline tails seen regularly there include Qantas, South African Airways, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, the airline of the UAE and Pakistan International. A number of others, from the US and the Far East, have made applications to open international services to and from Britain's northern gateway.



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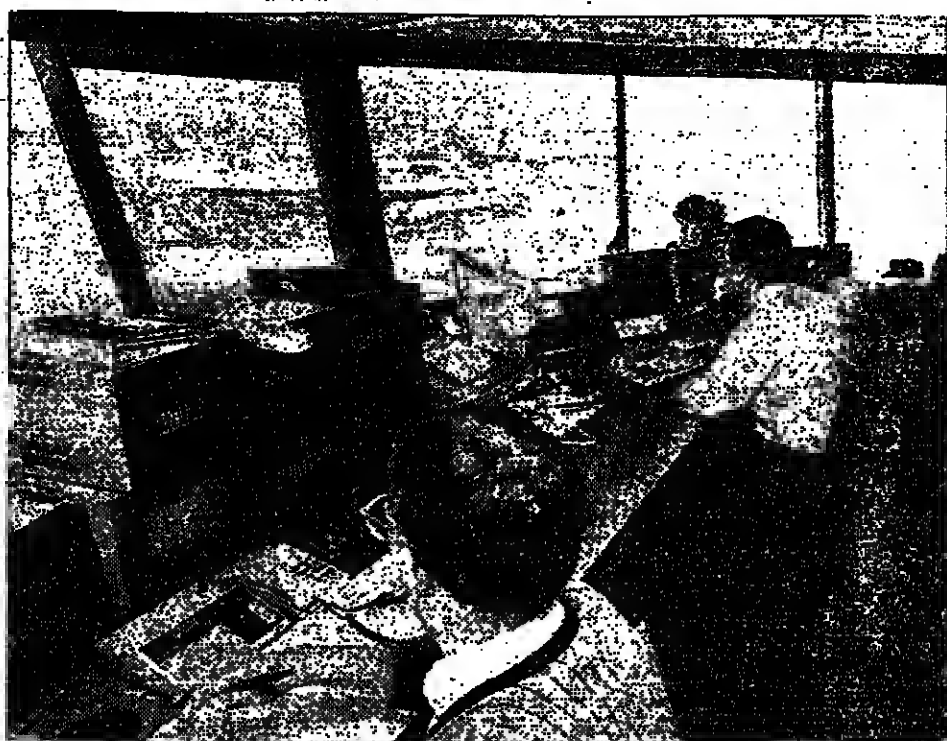
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Manchester International control tower: the airport will soon have a second terminal

The funds are found

Whitehall has followed up Cecil Parkinson's statement that the government is committed to encouraging the expansion of regional airports by earmarking borrowing approvals worth £59 million for investment this financial year, a 100 per cent increase on 1989-90. The transport secretary said regional airports should widen consumer choice in terms of destinations served, and in frequency of services.

The allocations authorise local authorities to borrow within specified limits for approved projects. The authorities are responsible for raising the necessary capital in the normal way, and the allocations do not represent government subsidies or grants.

Airports can also draw on local authorities' general expenditure allocations, and the 16 public airport companies (local-authority airports with an annual turnover exceeding £1 million a year where the whole shareholding remains with the local authorities concerned) are free to invest their undistributed internal resources.

Regional airports with important expansion schemes estimate they will spend £117 million this fiscal year, to be made up of the government borrowing approvals, and resources which they are investing. Much of the work will be happening in the north of the country. Among the schemes are continuation of work on a second terminal at Manchester, further work on the Euro-Hub terminal at Birmingham, runway resurfacing at Blackpool, and improvements to navigation equipment at Coventry.

Manchester plans the biggest development by far of any airport outside London. The main features are a new terminal, due to open in spring 1993, which will be able to handle 22 million passengers a year (twice as many as now), a new maintenance hangar, already in use, an extension of the cargo centre, and a rail spur linked to the national network. Ninety air-

Manchester plans the biggest development of any airport outside London

THE NORTH

lines serve 160 destinations from Manchester, but a drive by the airport management to turn it into a European hub should swell these figures.

The airport has gone "green", with a £1.5 million engine-test unit, which reduces noise by half, a scheme that pays compensation for roofs damaged by aircraft vortices, and the recent installation of the Fanomus system, which records not only the noise aircraft make, but their flight track as they take off or land.

Newcastle airport estimates that its maximum capacity of two million passengers a year will be taken up by the middle of this decade. To ease congestion at peak periods, the international departure lounge and the main concourse are being extended, while a study has been commissioned to look at longer-term expansion. The airport has a new dual carriageway, linking it to the A1, while work has started on extending the Tyne and Wear Metro into the airport by late 1991.

British Aerospace, with 76 per cent of the share capital of Liverpool airport, bought for £12 million, is studying the feasibility of developing it into an international gateway, although "some years" will be needed to assess the detailed environmental impact, and to obtain necessary planning permission.

A BAE official says: "Initial studies have shown that the airport is well-placed for expansion... and that such a development would signifi-

cantly boost the economy of the Merseyside region."

British Midland Airways carries 100,000 passengers a year on its scheduled services from the airport to Heathrow.

An airport for Sheffield is at the planning stage. To be called the Aerocentre, it would have a single runway, and would be sited between the M1 motorway and the A630 road, close to the city centre.

Work is almost complete at Belfast international airport on a £6 million terminal extension, including new lounges for British Midland and British Airways services to London. A new cargo terminal of 29,900 sq ft should be finished by the end of the year, while the laying of extra apron space will allow, by spring 1991, three Boeing 747-400s to park at the same time.

A total of £55 million is being invested in extensions, due to be completed in 1992, to the terminal building at Glasgow airport. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) intends to invest £30 million in an upgrading of the equipment at the Scottish and Oceanic Air Traffic Control Centre, at Prestwick airport. At Aberdeen airport, an advanced instrument landing system and instrumented runway visual range equipment have been installed by the CAA to help keep the airport running at times of low visibility.

Highlands and Islands Airports, responsible for the management and operation of eight airports in the Scottish Highlands and islands - Benbecula, Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree and Wick - plans to invest £16.5 million over the next five years.

The programme covers terminal buildings, safety equipment and aircraft parking stands. More than £7 million will be spent at Inverness, while replacement of a 12-strong fleet of fire appliances with new vehicles designed to the company's own specification will cost £2.8 million.

Fewer tours, more investment

A decline in leisure travel has not damped the expansion plans of regional airports specialising in this market

The package holiday trade is down an estimated 20 per cent, making this year a poor one for some of the airports in the Midlands and the south of England that specialise in this sector. There is little sign, however, of slackening airport investment. Sir Christopher Tugendhat, the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, predicts that regional airports will continue to grow much faster than Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Sir Christopher says two-thirds of Britain's air passengers use the London airports. In the past nine years, however, numbers at the London airports have grown by 5.7 per cent a year, while those in the regions have risen by an average 7.1 per cent.

"Growth at non-London airports will continue to outstrip that in London as more and more people are able to fly from an airport of their choice," Sir Christopher says. "This is because, in the long run, charter flight leisure travel is increasing faster than business travel."

The most significant development in the Midlands and south region is at Birmingham, where a second terminal costing £60 million is to open in June. The terminal has been christened Euro-Hub.

Euro-Hub will have an annual passenger capacity of 2.5 million, to bring the airport's total capacity to more than six million. British Airways, the main user, expects 1.4 million passengers to use the new terminal in the first year. Other large projects at the airport include a 200-bed hotel and extensions of car

THE SOUTH

parking and freight-handling areas.

Bob Taylor, the airport's managing director, says: "We now provide 4,000 jobs, and this figure is expected to rise 50 per cent in this decade."

Luton, where the local authority plans to sell the airport to buyers prepared to invest in its expansion, spent £13.6 million in 1989-90 on resurfacing the runway and installing new lighting - the first stage of an instrument landing system due to be ready in the spring next year. Developments costing £46 million are needed to enable the airport to cope with five million passengers by the mid-Nineties. These include terminal extensions, a new air traffic control tower and a new cargo centre.

Airport catering and duty-free shops have been upgraded at East Midlands airport at a cost of £1.1 million, and the freight-carrier DHL has invested £250,000 in its facilities at the airport's second cargo terminal. However, Terry Lovett, the managing director of EMIA, the operating company, says: "We must prepare for future developments, some of which may be costly. Significant development of the terminal building will be required in the next three or four years and it is not certain that government capital approvals will be available for us to raise the necessary loans."

A ten-year programme at Bristol airport includes a computer terminal and terminal building expansions to increase the annual passenger-handling capability to three million. The airport expects a large extension of its scheduled service network from next month. Brymon Airways, based at Plymouth airport, will use it as a hub and operate with its new Boeing of Canada Dash 8 airliners. Crossair, the Swiss airline, plans a service between Zurich and Bristol from March.

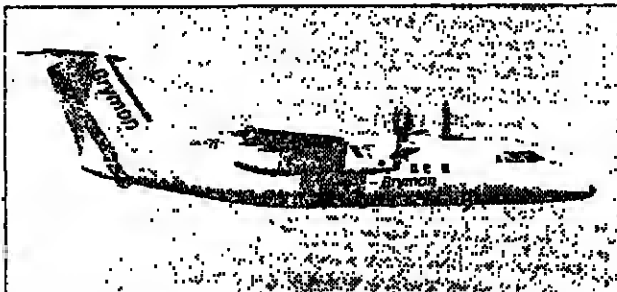
Airport UK, the operator of Southampton Eastleigh airport, will invest £20 million on a new terminal capable of handling a million passengers a year, and work is due to be completed in 1993. A business



Bob Taylor of Birmingham international airport: 50 per cent more jobs are likely

million. The airport expects a large extension of its scheduled service network from next month. Brymon Airways, based at Plymouth airport, will use it as a hub and operate with its new Boeing of Canada Dash 8 airliners. Crossair, the Swiss airline, plans a service between Zurich and Bristol from March.

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Brymon Airways will use Plymouth airport as a hub

park is being developed alongside the terminal.

An enormous boost for Cardiff-Wales airport was the announcement by British Airways this summer that it will locate a Boeing 747-400 maintenance hangar there, at a cost of £85 million and employing 1,200 people.

Growth in the area's economy has brought applications from airlines to start new services from the airport, and a commercial division has been established to promote its facilities. The airport's long-term "Development

Strategy 2001" includes a 97-acre aviation engineering park, a four-acre business park and a direct rail link.

Although Stansted, with a £400 million terminal due to open next spring, will take the strain off the two other main London airports, it also ranks as a regional. Sir Norman Payne, the chairman of BAA, pointed out that half of UK-originating passengers now using Gatwick start or finish their journeys north of the Thames. Stansted, he says, would be ideally placed to improve service for them.

London City, six miles from the centre of the capital, is becoming a "local" airport for south Essex and north Kent. Services are limited to near-European destinations with the turbo-prop Dash 7, but a favourable outcome of a planning enquiry into the lengthening of the runway and the design of a nearby bridge over the Thames could allow in the jet-powered BAe 146, and bring the more distant destinations within reach.

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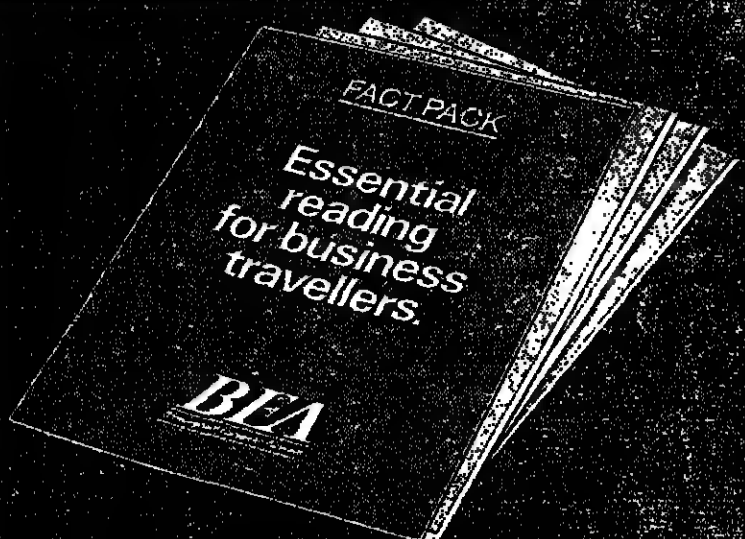
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America's way with women

Anne-Marie Schiro reports from New York, where designers do what customers want

American fashion is on parade in New York this week, flourishing as ever on its less-is-more ethos. Halston pioneered the minimalist look in the Sixties. Calvin Klein polished it in the Seventies. Donna Karan perfected it for the late Eighties. In the Nineties a new brand of brisk simplicity has been established by the next generation, with Michael Kors and Isaac Mizrahi the leading exponents.

When Mr Mizrahi graduated from the Parsons School of Design in 1982, Mr Kors had already been in business for a year. Today the two young designers — Mr Mizrahi is aged 28, Kors is 31 — are among the brightest stars of their generation. Their spare style is quintessentially American, yet their clothes also sell well in Britain, Germany and Italy.

They are on similar wave-

lengths, concerned first and foremost with dressing women in an upbeat, modern way. But each has a distinct style. Mr Kors votes for understatement, paring clothes down to the basics, while to Mr Mizrahi, the holder of the designer of the year award from the Council of Fashion Designers of America, the details often make the difference. For spring, Mr Mizrahi tucks on white piqué collars and cuffs to chiffon dresses and cotton sweaters. He likes to experiment with shapes and cuts. Last spring, he cut the backs out of starched white shirts. He showed pastel wool for this autumn season and will be showing some calf-length ballerina skirts in his spring show on Thursday.

"I show primarily very short skirts because they are mobile and modern," he says. "But a full skirt is sexy and fun and young. This spring collection is the most feminine collection I have ever done."

Mr Mizrahi worked with the late Perry Ellis and with Calvin Klein before setting up on his own three years ago. With an annual turnover of about \$8.5 million (£4.25 million), he sells to only 50 stores in the United States and Europe, and introduced his menswear collection last April.

"I am inspired by the way women live their lives," he says. "They have to be dressed in the morning for where they will be at midnight, and in so many different contexts. It has to do with paring down, with simplifying."

Joseph Ettedgui invested in Mizrahi for the first time for this autumn, stocking his Joseph shops in Knightsbridge, London, with swingy jackets and tiny wrap skirts in fondant pink, mauve and green. "The moment we put them in the window they sold," he says. "I found it difficult to buy the right things in Milan or Paris. Mizrahi and Kors have the right modern attitude to design. The shapes are wearable. Only the colour and cloth is spectacular. The customers love them."

"Inspiration for the spring comes from early Americana, the Puritans, the Pilgrims and the Shakers," Mr Mizrahi says. "It is a look that is very naive, very simple and very modern. Modesty is the important word for this new collection. I am tired of tight dresses. To me it is anti-American."

Mr Mizrahi is also inspired by fabrics and by colour. On one wall



"I always question new ideas. Customers are not trained seals who jump through hoops," Michael Kors (left)

"Women have to be dressed in the morning for where they will be at midnight," Isaac Mizrahi (right)



of his all-white workroom are colourful sketches and swatches of the new collection, blazers and pleated skirts in pastel shades of pink, yellow, orange, green and blue; long trenchcoats in gold and turquoise; orange and green chifon dresses.

"A lot of people think my work is wacky," he says. "I am not wacky, but I don't think of myself as brooding and serious either. I think I am classic."

Mr Kors is also a classicist. He likes to start with basics and then

inject frivolity. "I love cashmere and the perfect navy blazer," he says, "but I also love beads and satin and extravagance."

When he launched his own label in 1981, a simplicity of line became so much his trademark that he was called Mr Clean. In his show today a black patent leather coat is worn over a black swimsuit, a red patent coat over a red linen tent dress. There are also new pastel cotton coats and dresses in pale pink and pale blue checks. "One thing my customer hasn't had

in years," he says, "is pastels. I always question new ideas and ask myself how my customers will wear them. They are not trained seals who will jump through hoops."

Mr Kors has a clear vision of his customer as a sophisticated woman, aged "somewhere between 30 and 70", who knows what she likes and can afford it. To broaden his appeal, he has added a more casual, less expensive line for spring, to be called Kors and manufactured in Italy.

He designs a cashmere collection for Lyle & Scott, in Hawick, Scotland, and has just launched a collection of shoes, to be produced in Italy. His new line of swimsuits and cover-ups by Design for Trulo, the British company, will be in the shops early next year. His turnover is \$40 million and a Kors menswear line will be introduced in spring 1992.

"Every week there is a new project," he says. "It's crazy, but exciting." He says that his job is to make things easier for the cus-

tomers, so that she always looks pulled together. He is not interested in themes and fantasies, or to reviving fashions. "If I go back," he says, "it will be to the Sixties. I love the way the decade pushed new ideas and youth. Any designer who thinks youth is not an attraction is kidding himself. Women want to look sexy but authoritative, glamorous but comfortable, youthful but not childish."

• The author is a fashion writer for the New York Times

Come on in, the water's lovely

BRITISH bathrooms look like operating theatres. At least, that is the opinion of Johnny Grey, the interior designer. Mr Grey is better known for kitchen rather than bathroom design, which may explain his desire to turn the bathroom into a furnished room with free-standing furniture, a room where it is possible to chat and relax, much as one would in a sitting room or kitchen. A comfortable chair for "visitors" is essential in the modern bathroom, Mr Grey believes.

"During my childhood, I remember all five of us children getting together in the bathroom and chatting while my father was shaving in the bath," he says. "We had a traditional claw-foot bath, a threadbare Persian carpet and a hissing gas fire. It was the one place we all talked to each other."

"Bathrooms are very underrated in Britain," he adds. "But they are just as important as

From the man who brought us the gothic kitchen, the bathroom as a social centre

kitchens, being one of the few rooms where you can either be alone and think about things, renew yourself, or relax with someone else."

The Grey guidelines for bathroom design are specific. "Too much marble and too many tiles are a killer. It's very uncomfortable to have a bathroom that is all built-in. There should be a mixture of free-standing furniture and built-in appliances."

"As far as colours are concerned, it is important to accept that the room really is a 'bath' room and keep them soft or watery. Stark colours or black are unlikely to promote a sense of relaxation."

Mr Grey is the nephew of Elizabeth David, the cookbook

writer, so it may seem inevitable that he first made his mark in kitchen design. A commission for a gothic kitchen established the ground-rules: spaciousness, use of natural materials and a touch of whimsy. Two thousand enquiries followed a feature on his gothic kitchen in *The Sunday Times* ten years ago, some of which translated into one-off commissions from private clients.

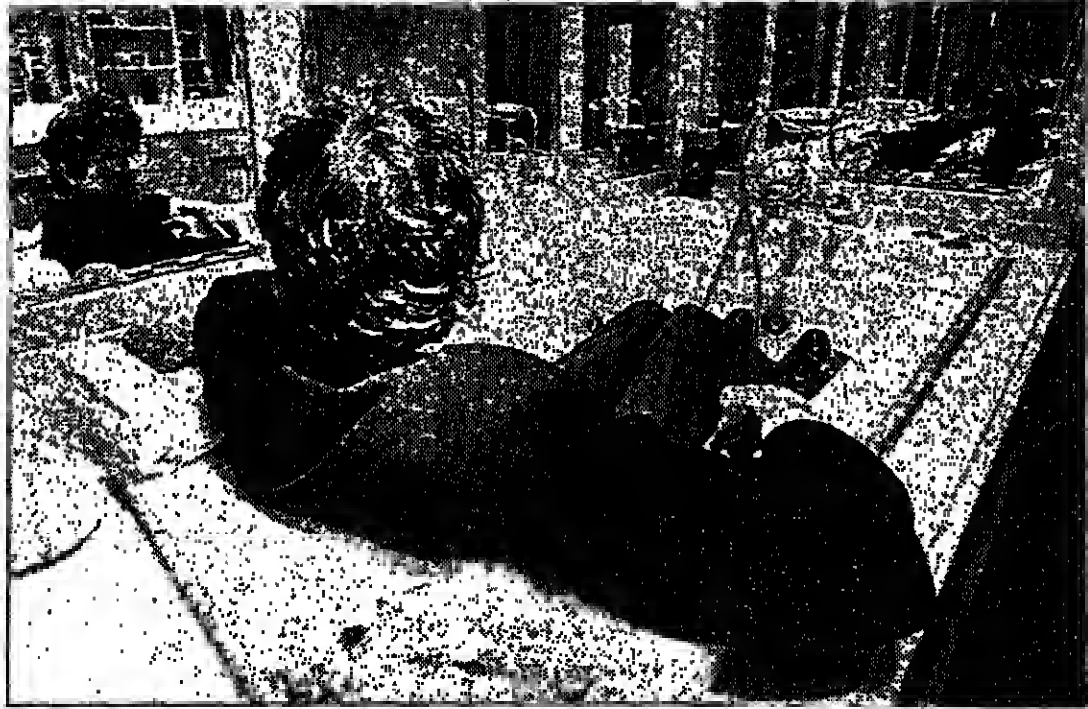
Then came the unfitted kitchen, his influential design for Smallbone, whose free-standing furniture has been imitated relentlessly by other British manufacturers since it first appeared in 1987. His latest design for Smallbone, available this month, is the Sycamore range of bedroom, bathroom and kitchen furniture.

The Sycamore bathroom has a graceful arched span of wood with an island keyhole above the shower enclosure. A boxwood and walnut inlay runs along the edges of the built-in units. A free-standing semi-circular washstand has a marble basin inset. Mirrors are acid etched, an alternative to traditional beveling, and the lavatory is hidden in a square, wooden 'thunderbox'.

While the bathroom may be a place in which to relax, the bath, it seems, is not. The long bath is not environment-friendly because it uses more water and electricity than a shorter one. "I think 1.55m is the maximum length needed and will prove more sociable, because you will be sitting up most of the time," Mr Grey says.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

• Further details from Johnny Grey, Fyning Cottage, Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 5DH (0730 821424).



Bathtime: Johnny Grey believes a smaller bath is environmentally sound and more sociable

Mapping the frontiers of a changing world

SADDAM HUSSEIN may say that there is no such place as Kuwait, but it is easy to confirm that there really is: it is still there in the new edition of *The Times Atlas of the World*, which was published this month. Saddam acknowledged the power of cartography as a political weapon by bringing it into play almost as soon as his tanks had drawn up in Kuwait City. He issued maps showing the whole territory swallowed up by his neighbour, and alternative versions purporting to digest only the tastiest parts of it. This form of propagandist ephemera comes and goes, but the atlas is worth backing for staying power.

The new edition, the eighth, has all the monumentality of its predecessors. But the upheaval in the Gulf is a reminder that even the most majestic of atlases is a project setting out to represent the current shape of something which is ever-changing.

"The *Times Atlas* is a permanent thing, kept going through a continuous process of updating," says H.A.G. "Bunny" Lewis, who has been

Kuwait still exists — if only because the new *Times Atlas* says so

consultant to the atlas for 25 years. "At intervals there is the major facelift of a new edition, but the work goes on all the time."

Mr Lewis has made a contribution, one way or another, to all the atlases produced under the imprimatur of *The Times* since 1965. They map out the past and present of human history, as well as the heavens, the Earth, and all that therein is.

Mr Lewis is in Saudi Arabia, close to the scene of the Gulf confrontation. But he is there by coincidence, not to trace the dotted lines of the disputed frontiers across the desert. He is incessantly on the move around the world, acting as consultant on the intricacies of map-making in an age of satellites and computers, whose activities depend on accurate knowledge of how matters stand on the ground.

"I carry nothing with me except a pocket calculator," he says. "If you added up my adult life, I must have spent half of it travelling. There has been a hundredfold increase in the accuracy of information-gathering since the advent of satellites."

An atlas, like a dictionary, can be humbled by a reputation for being the ultimate authority in its field. When litigants find themselves in dispute in court over a point of geography, it is to *The Times Atlas* that they naturally turn for a ruling. Nations are in contention over the

exact course of their frontiers in many parts of the world, and they are apt to count the atlas among their allies or their enemies, to the extent that it endorses their claims. "It is not the job of an atlas to say who is right in territorial disputes," Mr Lewis says. "Sometimes a country says: 'If you don't show our claims, we will ban you.' Very possibly the other side will make the same threat. We do not try to come down on one side or another. We set out to show who is in control on the ground."

But that criterion is not always sufficient. At this moment, it is very clear who is to control on the ground to Kuwait. The atlas had already gone to press when Saddam's troops crossed the border on August 2, but even if it had been possible to stop the presses, the printers would not have done so. "As a matter of fundamental principle we would not recognise claims put forward in those circumstances," Mr Lewis says.

So if Saddam was still in control of Kuwait when the next edition of the atlas is planned in about five years' time, would the status quo be acknowledged then?

"That is a policy decision on which I would consult *The Times*. But to take the example of China's annexation of Tibet — critics in the United States sometimes complain that it was illegal, and we should not accept it. Yet it is a fact. That is what our readers expect to find, and it would be a disservice to them to show on a map a situation which does not exist on the ground."

GEORGE HILL

• The *Times Atlas of the World*, eighth edition, is published by Times Books (£75).

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CINEMA

Hopes and hypes of the carnival

Geoff Brown anticipates a spectrum of treats at the ever-expanding London Film Festival

The first London Film Festival, in 1957, was a modest and sober affair. It showed 15 films by the brightest and best of international directors: such luminaries as Fellini, Bergman, Satyajit Ray, and Andrzej Wajda. Thirty-four years later, middle-age spread has definitely set in. The brochure for the 1990 edition, beginning on November 8, runs to 128 pages and includes 211 different programmes.

Fellini and Ray are still in the running — Ray is represented by a world premiere, *Branches of the Tree* — but they have now become submerged in Britain's longest and noisiest carnival of celluloid. Famous names jostle for space with low-budget American flights of fancy, Hong Kong melodramas, Hungarian videos, experimental delights from Yugoslavia television, oddities from Mali and Ecuador. There is even one film from a hitherto unsuspected source of cinematic industry: the Faroe Islands.

How can audiences possibly cope? As usual, the festival booklet drowns too many films with over-enthusiastic adjectives: there appears to be little here that is not exciting, delightful, wonderful, superb. One can understand the organisers' wish to lure audiences into the auditoria, but spread over 128 pages the bubbly style becomes self-defeating, leaving the punter at best bewildered, and at worst cynical. *Air America*, according to the festival director Sheila Whitaker, is "a cracking addition to the tradition of political satire". Anyone else would probably describe Roger Spottiswoode's tale of a nuclear pilot, gun running in Laos as an appalling, infantile action romp best left to the mercies of the commercial cinemas.

Some films stand out from the heap on their own accord. Past admirers of Bertolucci, Fellini, Ray, Godard, or Francesco Rosi will be anxious to see their latest offering, whatever the outcome. Ray's *Branches of the Tree* (November 19 and 25) promises to be another chamber piece on the lines of his recent adaptation *Ganashatra*, the director based this mellow tale of a family reunion on a script he wrote 25 years ago. Rosi is represented by *To Forget Palermo* (November 10): a Mafia thriller aimed at the international market, low on punch, high on visual sheen and passing quirks. Fellini offers *The Voice of the Moon* (November 11), a rambling pot-pourri of familiar themes and images, while Godard's *Nouvelle Vague* (November 12) features enigmatic aphorisms, dazzling photography, and Alain Delon as a mystery man pulled into business machinations on a lush Swiss estate.

Bertolucci's offering, eagerly awaited, is *The Sheltering Sky* — adapted from Paul Bowles' overwhelming first novel — about the mental disintegration of two Americans (John Malkovich, Debra Winger) under the Sahara's heat and dust. For a long while film rights were held by Robert Aldrich, a director with a blunderbuss touch: with his lyrical visual eye and feeling for emotional decay, Bertolucci seems much better casting. The film closes the festival on November 25, and opens commercially five days later.

Over 50 festival attractions have already secured a home with a British distributor or television outlet: the booklet's small print gives the details. Why wait until its January commercial run to enjoy Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, dazzlingly staged without a whiff of stuffy theatricality and featuring the performance of a lifetime from Gérard Depardieu? London Film Festival punters can have a preview on November 15. On the festival's gala opening night they can also, if they wish, dress in black tie and taste *Texasville* — Peter Bogdanovich's belated sequel to the film that established his reputation, *The Last Picture Show*. Moviegoers in America have given this broad slab of Americana a decisive cold should-

der, many of them were not even born when *Picture Show* emerged in 1971.

Yet the bulk of the films remain orphans, shipped into the country for a few screenings before continuing their restless trudge round the world's other festivals. Many, no doubt, will remain orphans, but it would be sad if someone did not give a home to Karel Kachyna's *The Ear* (November 12): a remarkable, terse account of a Czech deputy minister's life under surveillance, made in 1969 but only released this year. Harriet Eder and Thomas Kufus's *My Private War* (November 10) equally deserves a berth: this fascinating documentary surveys

the Germans' advance on Russia in 1941 through the eyes of amateur cameramen who served in the Wehrmacht.

There is *The Hairdresser's Husband* (November 18), a tantalising film from the director of *Monsieur Hire*, Patrice Leconte — with Jean Rochefort as a man whose dream of marriage to a hairdresser finally comes true. For those with the stamina, there is also *Near Death* (November 25), Frederick Wiseman's colossal fly-on-the-wall portrait of a Boston hospital's intensive care unit. The screening lasts from 10am to 5.30pm, at which point many spectators may be near death themselves.

But where, in all this, is British cinema? Over 20 programmes showcase new British product — not a bad tally at a time of recession — though the selection would shrink horribly without the output made for television. Mike Leigh's *Life Is Sweet* — another idiosyncratic comic canvas of suburban life — receives its world premiere on November 11. Derek Jarman's maddening but memorable *The Garden* (November 16) makes its London debut; while 102 *Boulevard Haussmann* (November 9) offers Alan Bates as Proust in a script by Alan Bennett.

Vintage British cinema is not forgotten. E.A. Dupont's 1929 *Moulin Rouge* receives a screening with live music from jazz com-

poser Mike Westbrook; there are three luscious Technicolor restorations by the National Film Archive, and three early films by the late Michael Powell, to whose memory the festival is dedicated. He can be glimpsed on the booklet's back cover, eyes sparkling, hurling his hat into the air. Choose your films very carefully, and you might still share his exhilaration.

● Booking for the London Film Festival opens on Friday. Screenings take place at the National Film Theatre, the ICA, the Ritzy, Whiteley's, Screen on the Green, and seven West End cinemas. Tickets and information from the NFT box office (071-928 3332).



Performance of a lifetime: Gérard Depardieu as Cyrano, left, with Vincent Perez as Christian in Jean-Paul Rappeneau's *Cyrano de Bergerac*

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BRIEFING

Coffee bar honoured

FIFTIES nostalgia will be rampant in Old Compton Street, Soho, at 10.30 am today, when a "Harp Beat Rock Plaque" will be unveiled on the former site of one of pop's most sacred venues: the 21's coffee bar. Among those discovered there in the late 1950s were Adam Faith, Lionel Bart, Gary Glitter, Cliff Richard and Tommy Steele, some of whom will be present today. At least this plaque is less bizarrely situated than the one put up a few weeks ago. That was at Widnes railway station, reputedly the hallowed ground upon which Paul Simon wrote "Homeward Bound".

Kafka must wait

TONIGHT, Birmingham Royal Ballet begins its first season in its new home. The season contains four premieres — but not the premiere for which the artistic director, Peter Wright, had hoped. This is a new production of one of Kenneth MacMillan's early ballets, *The Burrow*. It takes its title and inspiration from Kafka, but many spectators saw parallels with Anne Frank in the central role which gave Lynn Seymour one of her first successes. MacMillan is too busy staging his *Manon* in Paris to embark on recreating *The Burrow* after more than 30 years. But Wright promises that Birmingham will see it one day.

Thoroughly dated

WHEN did Laurel first meet Hardy? Most reference books say 1917: the supposed production date of *The Lucky Dog*, a simple two-reeler starring Laurel and a stray mutt, in which Hardy briefly appeared as a burly stock villain. But the Swedish film historian Bo Berglund — the man who used meteorological evidence to pin down the exact time of Chaplin's screen debut — has now dug up irrefutable evidence that puts the great encounter in 1920 or 1921.



Dated: Laurel and Hardy

By viewing the film frame by frame, eagle-eyed Berglund spotted a car's 1920 California licence plate, visible on screen for a fraction of a second. The discovery was unveiled last week at the Pordenone festival in Italy, which celebrated Laurel's centenary.

Last chance . . .

FAMED for his grandiose life-style and an obsession with painting everything upside-down, George Baselitz has become one of the most commercially successful of contemporary artists. In his latest London show, which closes on Thursday, his subjects are shuffled in disconnected strips, but at least the heads are at the top. Gimmicky or not, a palpable energy radiates. The exhibition is split between the Grib Gallery (071-493 6732) and Runkel-Hue-Williams Gallery (071-495 7017).

MARTIN CROPPER

ROCK

Muzak of the cosmos

David Toop talks to Kitaro, first prophet of the New Age



sounds", developed into a dull slog. After contributing over 200 songs during a four-year period, Kitaro was given the key to free himself from supposedly beautiful sounds by his friend and producer, Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.

"He gave me a book called *The Art of Noise*", says Kitaro. "After that my music began to change because I was thinking: what does the art of noise mean? Every noise is music." If he had read the theories of John Cage in the Sixties, Kitaro would have known this already: born into a small farming community in central Japan he was immune to such disruptive influences. His first

ambition was to become a professional tennis player and only the sight of some friends playing music in a club diverted him from this course.

His first group, The Far East Family Band, dissolved in a flurry of squabbles during the early Seventies; the personal animosity common to rock bands during this period convinced Kitaro to become a solo composer, yet the experience of performing on stage in Tokyo with only electronic sequencers and tape machines to keep him company was chastening. "Live performance has to be played live," he says.

Originally influenced by English progressive rock and the German synthesiser music of Tangerine Dream, Kitaro's heart and hair-style are adrift in the era described by American radio programmers as "classic rock", he has become successful by developing these influences from the late Sixties and early Seventies into muzak for the cosmos. His latest album, *Kojiki*, is typical. Based on Japanese creation myths, *Kojiki* begins with "In The Beginning" and concludes with "The New Dawn". With titles like these, little imagination is required to fill in the gap or guess the nature of the music.

Despite a heavy emphasis upon the technicalities of recording his music, Kitaro is moving away from new technology and investigating the possibilities of acoustic music. Currently building a recording studio in America's Rocky Mountains to escape from the noise and crowds of Japan, he says, "I don't want to be in a business. I can spend time in a deeper place. I want to meditate for a whole year and then after that I can compose music."

Aspirations towards a spiritual, healing music are admirable, yet few New Age composers have produced music which rises above the pejorative of "aural valium". After a year of meditation, perhaps Kitaro will surprise us all.

● Kitaro and his group will perform at the Albert Hall (071-589 8212) on Friday.

RADIO

Insubstantial impersonations

ONE of the staple figures of the microphone-friendly radio documentary is the entirely sober citizen retailing his experience of the paranormal. Such people have naturally rehearsed their tale before the programme-maker arrives and in consequence they inadvertently come across as the sort of plausible maniac at whom one smiles fixedly until they are safely around the corner. *Ghost* (World Service, Sunday and yesterday; also Radio 5 tomorrow) wore its smile in the manner of the Cheshire Cat. The programme's identity faded into the ether among the procession of suspiciously reasonable-sounding witnesses to whom the nether world had revealed itself.

Popular haunts of revenants included the city of York, where the guide of a "ghost walk" was heard milking the half-nervous titters of his charges like an uncle who fancies himself as an amateur magician. In Whitby, a professional Dracula impersonator told a particularly bothersome

poltergeist: "For goodness' sake be quiet", and it immediately left off pelting his costume with "gateau". Neither Albert Finney nor Sir Michael Hordern was canvassed. "What ghosts actually are," the presenter Aelke Lawrence declared in a rare access of decisiveness, "is a mystery." Well yes, one would have thought that that is pretty much the point of them: if they were susceptible to rational enquiry they would not be thought to exist, however much evidence may be adduced by sometime crusty sceptics who have found their road to Damascus. The religious element is unignorable: the grandest ghost story of all is a play about a Danish orphan who wants to believe in the Protestant conscience but finds himself ensnared by an older faith.

If one eschews personal testimony in these matters, one has to fall back on the expert. The *Radio 2 Arts Programme* (Sunday) devoted two hours to a strenuously unsmirking wrap-up of all things supernatural, from the

ancient Celtic practice of seeking cures by flinging woodcarvings into water, to the vexed question of why spirits are permitted to perambulate on Halloween. The Druid expert and the Norse mythology expert had their extensive say, but attention to the other material in hand was distracted by Frank Delaney's interview technique. His carpet-slipper voice cued his interlocutors not by asking a real question, but by speaking what was in effect their introductory paragraph, and then inviting them to agree with it. They invariably did. Perhaps we need the word "questionoid": the ghost of a question. At one point the Norse-myth man blundered — possibly from a sense of shame at being party to such proceedings — "I think that's an outstandingly good question. If it doesn't sound patronising to say so." Not in the least. Indeed, if only he had said "exceedingly" one would gladly have sent him a fruit cake.

MARTIN CROPPER

RECORD REVIEWS: CLASSICAL

Into the woods, but with which witch?

EMI already has the best *Hänsel and Gretel* in the catalogue in the shape of the recording Karajan made with Schwarzkopf and Grimmer as the brother and sister who have a nasty time in the woods. So why a new one? Two easy answers: Karajan's set is 30 years old and in mono, and EMI now has on its books Jeffrey Tate who has a natural affinity for Humperdinck's fairy tale.

Hänsel is Tate's finest opera recording so far. He gives the whole work a symphonic sweep, with the Munich forces playing majestically for him. But he also emphasises the fairy story element, with the Sandman (Barbara Hendricks) and the Dew Fairy (Eva Lind) casting their magic spookily, and the Witch herself

Humperdinck: Hänsel and Gretel Bonney/Ottar Bavarian Radio Symphony Orch./Tate. EMI CDS 7 54022 2. (Two CDs) VHS Decca 071 102-3 DH. Porter: Kiss Me, Kata Barstow/Criswell/Hampson/Dvorsky. London Sinfonietta/McGill. EMI CDS 7 54033 2. (Two CDs).

(Marjana Lipovsek) cackling like a berserk Woody Woodpecker.

The Hänsel and Gretel of Anne-Sophie von Otter and Barbara Bonney are a fresh, impetuous and thoroughly credible pair of kids, and there are two well-drawn performances from Andreas Schmidt and Hanna Schwarz as the Mum and Dad. It is difficult to imagine a fairy tale better told.

Those who want the pictures as well as the music will have to turn to the video conducted by Sir Georg Solti for Unel and now issued by Decca. The sound, alas,

seems muddy when heard after EMI's crisply engineered recording, and August Everding's visual direction is erratic.

There are, though, two star performances. Sena Jurinac's Witch changes in a trice from a rosy-cheeked gran to a snaggled-toothed one-eyed monster swishing around on her broomstick. Brigitte Fassbänder's hobbled-hoy of a Hänsel is another assured piece of acting and singing: wide-eyed, anxious and brave by turns. Edita Gruberova as Gretel cannot match her partner when she goes

before the cameras, but she sings alluringly. Hermann Prey and Helga Dernesch are the parents.

John McGlimm's successful run of American musicals for EMI continues with Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate*. As usual most of the spoken dialogue is out, and the numbers that were cut on the road to Broadway are in as an appendix. Porter's last thoughts, however, were best: most of the ailed items hardly deserve their place, apart from a campy number for the chorus boys entitled "What does your servant dream about?"

As the leading man, Fred Graham, says at the beginning: "We owe it all to Shakespeare, not mention the six other fellows who've been sitting up nights rewriting him." Two of those fellows were Sam Spewack and his wife Bella, who died only the other month. Together, their rewrite of *The Taming of the Shrew* provided Porter with one of the wittiest books he was ever to work on. He responded with songs which, when not parodying Viennese operetta ("Wonderbar") rode on the crest of the swing era. The lyrics contained memorable lines, many of which had to be cleaned up at the time. When *Kate* came to the screen, for instance, the gangsters were not allowed to sing (in "Brush up your Shakespeare"): "If she thinks your behaviour's heinous/Kick her right in the Corollanus".

McGlimm and the London Sinfonietta catch the ray most admirably. So does the baritone Thomas Hampson, who turns out as a natural successor to Alfred Drake and Howard Keel as Fred Graham/Petruchio. Josephine Barstow, though, is an odd choice as Lilli Vanessi/Kate, with her English tones. The rest of the cast are well up to the previous McGlimm-EMI standard.

JOHN HIGGINS

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THEATRE

The Dancing Bears Man in the Moon

STUART Browne's hour-long play is set in an untidy New York basement, rented by twenty-something F (for Fred) who is first seen lying on a mattress listening to Mozart on his personal stereo with an oddly mismatched pair of books beside him: a C.P. Snow novel and *A Life of George Sand*. There is an old straight scar on F's cheek.

Across the room, Bear (true name unknown) stands hunched by a pinball machine. When the play begins he jerks into action, prancing, dancing, all but making the machine, ungovernably fidgety as though ants were making nests in his jeans. His talk is just as hectic, an avalanche of frantically rapid words where rage, frustration and reproach come lumbering forth and find in F a mostly patient listener. Bear's scars are internal but when he dances his grubby T-shirt slides sideways across his shoulders, allowing the two bears tattooed there to dance in and out of sight.

The windows are boarded, the door leads directly to the outside world; occasionally the men pause to listen to passing police cars, footsteps or a yowling cat. Are F and Bear gay? Yes and no. F (Greg Anderson) has brought

Bear (Christopher Chappell) off the streets and does out quarters for him to play the machine in exchange for help controlling his drink problem. Bear does not know the name of his own problem but it is possible to surmise what contributes to his bouncing fury. Both have an obsession with knives. Bear was once an exhibition dancer in what seems to have been a gay bar — the dialogue becomes pretty convoluted hereabouts — and quite where his erotic impulses are now directed never becomes clear. In one of his vivid thumbnail sketches of off-stage characters, F says of Bear's former girlfriend when in smiling mood, "Her teeth flashed, scattering birds east and west." Bear seems relieved to be rid of her.

He keeps threatening to leave F: "You watch me go. You think I need you?" But he stays on, claiming he wants to get 100,000 on the machine so as to leave as a man. The tension in this tightly gripping play is whether he will leave before one of them kills the other. F seems the likely victim until he tells a sad story of an old Dutch bear-trainer whose beloved charged turned vicious. There are areas in this play where the data is too cluttered to indicate what is going on; paradoxically, Browne does not include sufficient data for us to grasp the implications of the ending.

The two actors give high-octane performances. Anderson, playing



Greg Anderson and Chris Chappell in *The Dancing Bears*

F, looks the more bear-like of the two while Chappell raps out an F for Forte performance as Bear. Paul Bardier's shrewd production,

aided by positional lighting, keeps the source of menace shifting.

JEREMY KINGSTON



High point: Ron Vawter in *LSD*

THEATRE

Wooster Group

Tramway, Glasgow

THE Wooster Group do not care what people think of their work. Nor do they care about bad reviews, because critics do not know what they are talking about. These Americans are not only astonishingly immodest but, sadly, almost as good as they think they are.

The Glasgow season was a mixture of old and new: *LSD* (the first of the *High Point* series), the British premiere of Frank DeLia's *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* and a work in progress, *Brace Up!* The first is the now famous exploration of drug culture and the work of Timothy Leary. This includes a terrifyingly funny rehearsal of *The Crucible* with a cast high on acid, which almost prompted litigation by Arthur Miller. The second is based

on a closet drama by Flaubert, mixed with the ramblings of an alter ego of Lenny Bruce. The third is an accessible but serious attempt to perform Chekhov's *Three Sisters* without Stanislavskian trappings.

One reason for the group's popularity is its skill. Every gesture, every inflection, every move, every cue, is rehearsed and executed flawlessly throughout shows of great complexity. Video is used to lighten and darken the pieces: in *The Temptation*, a fully-clothed Frank DeLia ch-ch-ch-ch-ch beside a video of his torso which is also dancing, while in *Brace Up!*, the leave-taking between Irina and the Baron is intensified, because although the performers have their backs to the audience, their faces are seen in close-up on two large monitors. And of course the use of a wide range of screens and acting areas also allows the audience to be selective about its focus of attention.

Brace Up!, as yet unfinished, attempts to "renew" *The Three Sisters*. Throughout the evening, the male cast members sit along the back, smoking and swigging vodka. The women sit on the sides and watch. With the aid of Kate Valk, a devastatingly neutral narrator, the plot is explained. When scenes threaten to become too heavy, they are stopped. Scenes which in most productions are swathed in melancholy — for example the departure of the soldiers — become an excuse for a jaunty song, a film clip of Branagh's *Henry V*, and a dance by the narrator. Thus, there is not an ounce of sentimentality in this *Three Sisters*, only emotional honesty.

The shows are all directed by Elizabeth LeCompte. Her husband, William Daloz (Scorsese's Christ in *The Last Temptation*) appears in all three pieces, replaying his most famous role for Saint Anthony's final leap of faith. Audiences, too, need to make such a leap. But they will not regret it.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

CONCERT

Walton Evening

Purcell Room

COMMON opinion has it that William Walton's talent faded quickly after his early successes, and common opinion could well be right as far as his songs for solo voice and piano are concerned. But perhaps it also has to do with choice of text.

Here, for instance, the soprano Ingrid Aitton sang *A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table*, composed in 1962. Words and music fit each other as the proverbial well-tailored glove covers the elegant hand, and the harmonic and melodic vocabulary is distinctive. But even if Aitton's performance had been more subtly shaded, I doubt whether she would have been able to make these songs sound anything other than superficial. Wit and enjoyment is enough, Walton seems to say.

He went no further in *Anon in Love*, composed two years before for Aldburgh. The tenor Marilyn Hill, sounding hard and strident in this small hall, seemed extra keen to explore the mildly risqué aspects of this cycle. In the second

half, Graham Johnson, who had played the piano in the two cycles with his usual finesse, was replaced by the conductor Richard Hickox and a select septet from the City of London Sinfonia, while Richard Baker and the composer's ebullient widow, Lady Susana Walton, supplanted the singers.

This was for the evening's main course: Walton's Twenties masterpiece, *Facade*. Baker and Lady Walton were amplified in modern style: a pity, since that takes away some of the rawness so crucial to this piece. Baker, indeed, often spoke his lines colourlessly, as if he were reading a particularly dour news bulletin. Sitwell's poetry usually demands a more mannered and extravagant delivery than his, though Baker's sober gravity suited the references to blackness. Lady Walton's contribution was more successful, because she was readier to make her voice rise and fall, though the odd inflection sounded misplaced.

What is it that makes this piece — which is, after all, another exercise in wit rather than emotional profundity — so superior to those later songs? Merely the fact that it dares to explore.

STEPHEN PETTIT

DANCE

Les Mystères de Subal

Queen Elizabeth Hall

CORPSING is a famous hazard in the theatre; for those not in the know, it is when one or more actors suddenly get an uncontrollable fit of giggling. Jean-Claude Gallotta has one of his dancers — the older one with a Colonel Sanders beard — pretend to do this in his latest show, at the sight of one of his colleagues — the slim, balding one — prancing about with a guitar, wearing nothing but tiny coloured trunks and bright ribbons round his ankles.

The laughter grows louder as it goes on, until Beatty collapses and is laid on a table where old women undress him to his underwear, shoes and socks. There follows an interlude where they all comfort him — or he dreams that they do — like nymphs around a thick-set, ageing sex-god.

Inconsequently, and entertainingly, the quality of *Les Mystères de Subal*, which last weekend had two performances at the Queen Elizabeth Hall for Dance Un-

brella. Subal is an invented desert island, where Gallotta's cast is shipwrecked (the quick-eyed will notice it is also the name of one of his earlier characters, Docteur Labus, spelled backwards).

Gallotta puts two of his dancers into pointe shoes in successive scenes: the tallest of the women and the tallest man, too. Both walk as if on stilts, sharply, cautiously. Characters are blindfolded, or hidden briefly behind drinking glasses which they wear like false noses. People go careering around the stage with the naive enthusiasm of ordinary folk suddenly exhilarated.

Dramatically, the dream structure is a kind of cop-out, leaving the audience to make the connections themselves. This is a less composed work than *Mammame* which Gallotta brought here last year. But the jollity of the score by Henry Torgue and Serge Houppin, the theatricality of the show, its colour and style (helped by Manuel Bernard's atmospheric lighting design) are infectious. Gallotta himself plays only a small role in this, but uses the assorted shapes, sizes and personalities of his regular company to beguiling effect.

JOHN PERCIVAL

NEW RELEASES

▶ **BETSY'S WEDDING** (15) Alan Alda's uneven but engaging comedy about a woman's wedding, with Mandy Patinkin as the future bride's wedding planner and a notable debut by Anthony LaPaglia. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **GOOD FELLAS** (18) Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. Ray Liotta is especially marvellous by the side of Al Pacino. New Line: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and abroad indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

▶ **BRID ON A WIRE** (12) Empty-headed chase movie, with only Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn's star power to pull us through a richly silly script. Director John Badham. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **DICK TRACY** (PG) The blockbuster of the year — dazzling in look, a tough director, a star who does little to breathe life into the comic strip detective. With Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **DE HARD 2 — DE HARDER** (15) Action-packed but relentlessly silly sequel to an already absurd original. Alan Decker. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **THE ENCHANTMENT** (18) Strangely, a strange, understated drama about a psychiatrist who falls for a patient. Patricia Richardson. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **GHOST** (12) Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller, a modern, incoherent, but absorbing white trash. With Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **HARDWARE** (15) Thunderous, over-the-top action-adventure thriller from a new director, Richard Donner. Low on budget, high on verve. In-jokes and cheek. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE** (15) Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame, originally a TV mini-series. But it's a masterpiece. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **BARBARANS** (18) Last performance of David Jones's production of Garry. Cannon: Chelsea (01-522 5050).
▶ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** (18) Edward Gagnier's production of the big new play, a masterpiece. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **DANCING AT LUGHNASSA** (18) Brian Friel's production of the big new play, a masterpiece. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **DEMOGRAPHY** (18) Disappointingly easy on the eye, a play about the Russian Nobel winner Joseph Brodsky. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **LOVE LETTERS** (15) Elaine Stritch and George Peppard take over the duty of reading a list of letters in Al Gore's play. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **MEIN KAMPE** (18) Farce. Dreadfully uneven, overacted but featuring sharp wit at Act 1's close-house clown in Vienna. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **MOSCOW GOLD** (18) David Calder gives his best performance as the sinking Gorbachev. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY** (18) A play about the Russian Nobel winner Joseph Brodsky. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **OUT OF ORDER** (18) David Calder gives his best performance as the sinking Gorbachev. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **PRIVATE LIVES** (18) Keith Bate, John Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

▶ **THE RAIL, INDIA AND THE BRITISH** (18) A play about the Russian Nobel winner Joseph Brodsky. Metro: Chelsea (01-522 5050).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION AND RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

BBC 1

- 8.00 **Coast**
8.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas
Witchell and Jill Dando
8.50 **Daytime UK** previews the morning's
events
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwaves**, Quiz show hosted by
Andy Craig 9.25 **Dish of the Day**
Cooking with Rosemary Moon 9.30
People Today, This phone-in is on
many matters
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC** presented by
Simon Perkins begins with **Playdays**
10.25 **The Family Nees** (r)
10.35 **People Today**, Includes, at 10.45,
Martin Lewis looking at treatments for
backache
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glik
examines new initiatives on the Gulf
11.15 **Afternoon News**, 11.45 **Before**, Adrian
Mills and Rosie Phillips take you
daily and the winner of the **Brainwaves**
quiz question is announced
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After News**, 12.15 **Before**, Adrian
Mills and Rosie Phillips take you
daily and the winner of the **Brainwaves**
quiz question is announced
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael
Buerk, Weather
1.30 **Neighbours**, 1.50 **Four**
Squares, Quiz game
2.15 **Racing from Redcar**, Julian Wilson
introduces live coverage of the 2.30,
3.00 and 3.30
3.50 **The Parity of Penelope** (r)
4.15 **Paw Patrol**, Cartoon (r) 4.35 **Space**
Facto, Presenter Claire Quick has it
but Bob Geldof does not. This subject is
ambition and 10-year-old Claire

wants to leave school and become a
hairstresser, while Bob is happy to go
along with whatever life brings
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Grange Hill**
(Cartoon)
5.35 **Neighbours**, (r) (Cartoon), Northern
Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside Later**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anne Ford
and Andrew Harvey, Weather
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines
Neighbours, Neighbours
7.00 **Trivial Pursuit**, Trivia knowledge
quiz hosted by Rory McGrath, (Cartoon)
7.30 **EastEnders**, More gloom and doom
with the residents of Albert Square
(Cartoon)
8.00 **May to December**, Frilly amusing
comedy series about an ageing
solitary's love for a younger PE
teacher, with Anton Rodgers and Eve
Henson, (Cartoon)
8.30 **A Question of Sport** presented by
David Coleman, Ian Botham is joined by
Clayton Blackmore and John Jeffrey;
Bill Beaumont is supported by Tessa
Sunderland and John Parrott
(Cartoon)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael
Buerk, Regional news and weather
9.30 **The Paradise Club**, Derivative
drama series about two streetwise
brothers starring Leslie Grantham
and Don Henderson, (Cartoon), Wales:
Week in Week Out 10.00-10.50 **The**
Paradise Club
10.20 **Fun 90** with Barry Norman, Among
the films reviewed are *The Firm*,
starring Marlon Brando, and *The*
Hardcore, directed by Volker
Schöndorff, Northern Ireland: Ulster
in Focus
10.50 **Teletext**
● **CHOICE**: Steve Pools has made a
film that will have the effect of making
everyone count their blessings—



Bleak house: Riddings' tenants (10.50pm)

everyone, that is, except the people
whose existence the film depicts with
such uncompromising honesty. With
one notable exception, a black family
whose philosophical acceptance of
life is not so naive as it pretends to be,
hope without hope exists, the
tenants of the Riddings estate in
Huddersfield have to cope with a
bleak present and the prospect of an
equally bleak future. Admittedly,
there is a small victory in the war against
encroaching cockroaches and a
battered wife embarks on a second
marriage that might heal the scars
left by the first. But everywhere else on
the estate, it is a daily struggle to
keep heads above water in a
environment where even prostitution
seems preferable to the grim
alternatives and, for the children, it is
chop with a very real knife.

11.50 **Working Time**, The East of London
and his sister, Lady Elizabeth, talk to
Alan Towers about their
relationship and their working lives.
Wales: Film 90 12.20am-12.50
Wales: Film 90 12.20am-12.50
12.20am **Working Time**, Northern Ireland (to
12.50) Film 90



Long stretch: officer and inmate (9.50pm)

listening in on behalf of you and me
— and it is this being too lostness? — on
behalf of anyone professionally
interested in penal reform. One wonders
whether the youth who writes at the
camera and cries "Hi, Mum!" during his
first moments at Glen Parva will be as
charmy when the months drag by and
he sees the BBC crew watching and
recording precisely every move he
makes and every word he utters
10.20 **200 Useful Ideas** from Japan, A
look at innovation in a consumer
packaged society
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow
11.15 **The Late Show**, Includes *The*
Times theatre critic Benedict
Nightingale, in the *British* *Opinion*
column, explaining the pressures of his
job while reviewing *Other People's*
Money 11.55 **Weather**
12.00 **Fighting Talk**, See 4.30. Ends at
12.35am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with **News** and **Good**
Morning Britain presented by Maya
Ellen and from 7.00 by Mike Morris
and Lorraine Kelly. With main news
bulletins on the hour and headlines
on the half hour, in the **Doc Spot** at 6.20
and 6.35 Dr Hilary Jones discusses
anxiety and stress and at 8.10 the
week's series on tranquility continues.
In **After Nine** Kathy Taylor has more
news from London Fashion Week
9.25 **Keynotes**, Music quiz with Alastair
Cruick 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time**, ... The Place ... Mike
Scott chairs a discussion on the police.
Are they given a real deal or is public
mistakenly justified?
10.40 **The Morning**, Fifty-orientated
magazine show presented by Judy
Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.05 **Doc, Jane & Freddy**, For the very
young 12.25 **Home And Away**, Drama
about Australia's 2.50 **Talkabout**,
Andrew O'Connor presents a new
series in which two couples are invited
to participate in fast-moving, fast-
taking challenges
3.15 **News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News**
headlines 3.25 **Families**, Bi-continental
soap opens linking Australia with the
north of England

- 3.55 **Hudley Pig 4.10 The Real**
Ghostbusters, Cartoon (r)
4.40 **Children's Ward**, Drama set in the
children's wing of a hospital
5.10 **Blockbusters**, Bob Holmes asks the
audience in the general knowledge quiz
5.40 **News** with Nicholas Owen, Weather
5.55 **Thames Help** continues with its
report on the work of the hospice
movement
6.00 **Home and Away** (r)
6.30 **Thames News** and weather
7.00 **Emmerdale**, Long-running, topical
soap set in the Yorkshire Dales, (Cartoon)
7.30 **Thames Reports: Apprentices of**
Crime, Roger Beam talks to young
criminals to find out why they have
chosen their way of life
8.00 **The Bill: Blue Murder**, Still setting
the standard by which all other cop
shows must be judged, tonight's
interview plot strands feature an
armed robbery at a local building
society and Chief Supt Brownlow
ordering a clamp-down on kerk
cracks, (Cartoon)
8.30 **Strike It Lucky**, Quiz show with a
£3,000 jackpot, (Cartoon)
9.00 **Boon: Burning Ambition**, Wearing
his usual face of bemused innocence,
Ken (Michael Elphick) finds himself
being interrogated about a crime he did
not commit when he investigates
what looks like a simple case of a jilted
lover and a lying husband. Ronald
Fraser and David Daker also star in the
enjoyable Melancton-based private
crime series (Cartoon)
10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet
and Trevor McDonald, Weather 10.30
Thames News and weather
10.40 **Victory: The Fall**
● **CHOICE**: And so, at long last, we
get to Watergate and the burglary that
the President's press secretary

instilled was nothing for Nixon to feel
concerned about: the slitting out of
all the President's men, and the blank bit
of the White House tape, the "I'm
not a crook" speech and the moves for
impeachment, and the last farewell —
the tears welling out of the eyes of the
White House staff as the President,
who has lost his job, recounts the sad
tale of the president who lost his
daughter. But in all other respects, this
is the Watergate tangle without
tears, painstakingly unravelled out of
vision by Geoffrey Hodgson and in
vision by many of the principal players in
this astounding drama, including the
leading men, Richard Nixon himself
11.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H**, Australian
drama set in a female detention centre
12.30 **The New Avengers** starring Patrick
Macnee, Joanna Lumley and Gareth
Hughes. Take a clutch of beautiful girls,
add some middle-aged men and a maze
of death and the result is a recipe for
another bizarre case for the
crimebusting trio (r)
1.30 **Video View**, Mariela Frostrup
presents the best in what to rent and
buy, including the film which marked
John Travolta's resurrection, *Look Who's*
Talking, Tom Cruise in *Born on the*
Fourth of July and *Kemp* brothers in
The Krays. Followed by **News**
headlines
2.00 **60 Minutes**, A new series of the
American news magazine
3.00 **Dorchester**, The Dorchester meets
people who have made numerous trips
to the after. Followed by **News**
headlines
4.00 **Entertainment UK**, The weekly
guide to the latest in entertainment all
over the country
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Branda
Rowe. Ends at 5.00



Marilee Matlin and William Hurt (10.00pm)

adolescents (William Hurt) and the
domestic manual at his school on whom
he tries out his unorthodox methods
(Marilee Matlin). It is the climax of a day's
programming on Channel 4 to mark
British Deaf Awareness Week, which
was prompted by the knowledge
that one in ten of the population in
Britain has a hearing loss that can be
classified as a disability. *Children of a*
Lesser God was nominated for an
Oscar, but did not win one. Marilee
Matlin, who is deaf, did win one, for
best actress
12.20am **It's Showtime at the Apollo**
Comedy Channel's show comics
Richard Briers and Steve White and
others the *Cover Girls* and Tony Terry
1.15 **Chet Atkins: Certified Guitar**
Player, Country music star Chet Atkins
gets together with the Everly
Brothers, Mark Knopfer, Emmy Lou
Harris, Michael McDonald, Willie
Nelson and Waylon Jennings (r). Ends at
2.20

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 **The Art of Landscape**, A soothing
mixture of music and beautiful natural
images. With information about *Deaf*
Landscapes, a Channel 4 initiative in
which all its programmes will carry
subtitles or sign language
6.20 **Business Daily**, (Teletext)
6.30 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**
presented by Sue Cameron, (Teletext)
12.30 **Business Daily** with Susan
Simons, Financial and business news
service, (Teletext)
1.00 **Sesame Street**, Educational fun for
pre-school children
2.00 **Three Wives: A Good Alternative**
examines the medical case of hysteria
somehow over 55 years old
2.45 **Film: Lorna Doone** (1934, b/w)
starring Victoria Hopper in the title role,
with John Loder, Mary Clare and,
in her first film, Margaret Lockwood, who
got her chance when actress
Greta Garbo was taken ill at
the last moment. In 1925 on Exmoor,
a farmer comes to love an outlaw's
daughter who turns out to be a
kidnapped heiress. A straightforward
and rather low-key screen version,
with good use of locations, of
R.D. Blackmore's classic novel of
romance and mystery. Directed by Basil
Dezobry
4.20 **A Word in Your Eye**, Short
programme for Deaf Awareness Day
about the problems encountered by
deaf people. (With signing and in-vision
subtitles)
4.30 **Film: The One**, (Teletext)
5.00 **Qwi TV**, Wildlife series introduced by
Michaela Strachan, with children of

mixed abilities reporting from home
and abroad
5.30 **Same Difference**, Series focusing
on issues faced by the disabled
presented by Libby Crook and Mark
Todd
6.00 **Whispers**, On *Loan*, A Vietnamese
girl (Marilee Matlin) grows up in
Australia for ten years believing
herself an orphan. Then, out of the blue,
she gets a letter from her father (r).
(subtitled)
7.00 **Channel Four News** with Jon Snow
and Zarah Bhambhani
7.50 **Comment**, On Deaf Awareness Day,
tonight's comment comes from a deaf
person. (With signing and subtitles).
Followed by **Weather**
8.00 **Listen Eye: Two Deaf Artists**
Woodcutters Martin Dutton and painter
Tonya Landish discuss the deaf
generations of deaf artists both
concerned to see more deaf people
involved in the visual arts. (With signing
and subtitles) (r)
8.30 **Check Out** investigates what the
government's new Green Belt means
and, for Deaf Awareness Day, a look
at how new technology means that deaf
viewers can take programmes while
a VCR records teletext subtitles over the
picture
9.00 **Critical Eye: Dark Passage**, The
death squads of El Salvador have been
responsible for the killing of more
than 25,000. One of the victims was
Martinez, a former member who
fled to the United States last October
and claimed direct involvement in
the squads of the Salvadorean army and
the American government. Allan
Franzblau's trenchant documentary
examines the allegations, which
have provoked a dramatic response in
the US. (Teletext)

and produces a son. Ends 4.10
Superzone 7.30 Sportsweek 8.00 **The**
Mean Streets — American Football (0.00)
Sportsweek 10.00 American Football
11.30 **Recess**, 12.00 **Sportsweek**
12.30am NFL — American Football

BSE NOW
8.00am **The Day Today** 8.15 **Gateway**
8.45 **Pin du Jour** 8.50 **The Day Today** 9.15
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Right and Centre 10.30 **Ambrosia** (1.00)
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
● LAW 30
● SPORT 36-40

BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

TUESDAY OCTOBER 30 1990

Wembley in £7.3m leisure deal

WEMBLEY is paying £7.3 million for a chain of eight bingo clubs, an Isle of Wight pleasure park and a contract catering business. All are being acquired from Leisure Leisure, the fellow leisure group.

The acquisitions are being financed through a placing of 7.5 million new Wembley shares at 80p. The balance of the consideration is being funded from Wembley's cash resources.

The bingo clubs are mainly based in the South of England, with two in Wales and one in Coventry, and the pleasure park is located at Alum Bay. The catering business specialises in the hospitality market.

The businesses being acquired reported combined pre-tax profits of £1.2 million for the 14 months to end-December 1989. Net assets at that date were £10.8 million. Profits for the year to end-December 1990 are expected to be £1.5 million.

The company said the operation of bingo clubs "is a natural extension of Wembley's sports, entertainments and gaming business".

Eurotrack index goes to work

The FT-SE Eurotrack index, a minute-by-minute computerised share index that aims to measure movements on continental stock exchanges, went quietly live after operating experimentally for three weeks. From a new base of 1,000 at 9am, the index quickly fell 9.38 points but spent the rest of the day recovering from this lapse. After briefly topping its opening level, it ended at 3pm at 998.47, a net fall of 0.153 per cent.

Stock Market, page 28

Alida down 46%

Alida Holdings, the plastic packaging company acquired by British Polythene Holdings that still has a listed preference share issue outstanding, has reported a 46 per cent slide in interim pre-tax profits to £809,000 for the first six months of the year. No interim dividend is paid.

THE POUND

US dollar

1.9525 (-0.0030)

German mark

2.9626 (+0.0020)

Exchange index

94.7 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

1600.0 (+1.6)

FT-SE 100

2062.1 (-1.0)

New York Dow Jones

2431.44 (-4.70)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

25329.31 (+323.67)

Closing Prices ... Page 27

Major indices and

major changes ... Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 14%

3-month interbank 10 3/4%

3-month sterling bill 10 1/2%

US Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 7 1/2%

3-month Treasury bill 7 1/2%

30-year bonds 8 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:

C. \$1.9525

C. DM2.9626

C. Sfr2.9626

C. FF5.0780

C. Yen250.70

C. Index20.7

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Brent Walker faces £128m repayments

By MARTIN WALLER

BRENT Walker, the embattled leisure group, is refinancing talks with its bankers over its bank debts, must repay almost £128 million over the next 12 months and is unlikely to be able to fund this from its normal cash flow.

Details of the debts came with the long-delayed listing particulars for Brent Walker's £103 million convertible capital bonds issue which is now in the post to shareholders.

George Walker, the chairman, has had to reveal in the document that talks are taking place with the company's bankers to secure necessary working capital. As a result, he is recommending existing shareholders do not take up their rights under the bond issue "until they have received that further information which will set out details of the proposed new financing arrangements for the group."

The eventual issue of the listing particulars was seen as good news for the Brent Walker share price, which has been moving about erratically as uncertainty over the issue filtered out into the market in recent weeks. The shares added 10p to 55p. Neither Mr Walker nor his financial

advisers were prepared to comment on the issue or the refinancing talks.

But it appears there is still uncertainty over whether the banks will eventually all agree to the necessary amendments to their covenants, although a fair degree of support has already been forthcoming.

The bond issue itself will almost certainly go ahead. Brent Walker has published a list of underwriters which have agreed to take the shares if the shareholders refuse them.

One, Svenska International, is already one of the group's existing bankers. Others include Citicorp, a Bahamas insurance trust, MMG Patrick & Co, the venture capital group, and Tunis International Bank. Brent Walker is building a holiday development in Tunisia.

Also underwriting the issue is Birdseye Walk, Mr Walker's personal company, which is also taking up its rights to £17 million of the bonds. The bonds bear interest at 13 per cent and on full conversion would result in the issue of 73.8 million new shares, or about 60 per cent of the enlarged share capital. Ordinary shareholders would receive 49 bonds for every 40 held, while preference holders would get

the same number for every 150 convertibles held.

Brent Walker has also agreed the sale of Goldcrest, its film subsidiary, to a management buy-out. But the consideration, \$33 million, is well short of the company's own estimates of \$50 million, although there is a further deferred payment of up to \$4 million.

The listing document gives details of the group's bank borrowings. It has secured lending of about £360 million and unsecured loans of £620 million. But £128 million is repayable within one year, £20 million of it secured.

Analysts' forecasts of pre-tax profits in the current financial year are for less than £100 million, while the company admits to the document that "certain proposed disposals have not been capable of being achieved at values and to a time scale consistent with the directors' objectives", given the downturn in the economy and the leisure industry.

Sources close to the company, therefore, accept that the debt repayments can probably not be met, which would put the group in default of its banking agreements.

Times, page 25

American interest rates reduced to 7.75 per cent

From JOHN DURE IN NEW YORK

THE American Federal Reserve Board has cut interest rates by a quarter point to 7.75 per cent as fears of a growing recession overcame inflation worries.

The move had been delayed by the wrangle between Congress and the White House over America's budget and was an immediate reward to industry for the deficit cut finally agreed by Congress over the weekend.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial index had risen by 12.38 to 2448.51 by midday. Since the cut had been widely expected, how-

ever, it had no dramatic effect on financial markets or on the dollar, which had weakened in anticipation.

The latest American cut, though small, will increase confidence that world interest rates are now more likely to fall than rise. No further increases in Japanese and German interest rates are expected.

The Fed does not announce its interest-rate changes but its market action yesterday indicated it had made the cut.

Darwin Beck, an economist at First Boston, said: "I think it can safely be said the Fed

has just cut its rates." David Greenlaw, a Morgan Stanley economist, said: "The market had already pushed the federal funds rate down to 7.75 per cent when the market opened and while a small drain in funds was needed the Fed pumped an extra \$1 billion into the market."

Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, had said earlier if the federal government put together a credible plan to cut the budget deficit, the Fed would respond with a cut in interest rates.

While the budget package was not as strong as some had hoped for, Wall Street expected the cut as at least a symbolic gesture ahead of the likely recession. American banks, however, will probably not cut their prime lending rates which have stood at 10 per cent this year.

The federal funds rate, the rate at which the Fed lends to other banks, was cut from 8.5 per cent last year but remained at 8.25 per cent until it was eased to 8 per cent in July.

The market swiftly started to look for the next quarter-point cut to 7.5 per cent, which may come after the Fed's next policy meeting on November 13. There was little change in the dollar and long-term bond prices were up slightly with the yield dropping from 8.77 per cent to 8.75 per cent in midday trading.

Today the American third-quarter gross national product (GNP) data are expected to show an increase of 0.8 per cent in the quarter. But this is believed to be the last positive result for at least the next six months with most Wall Street economists expecting the fourth-quarter GNP to fall by more than 1 per cent.

On Friday October employment figures are expected to show rises in unemployment to 5.8 per cent from 5.7 per cent in September and 5.2 per cent at the start of this year.

Building societies cut savings rates

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

INTEREST rates for building society savers are being reduced by an average 0.8 per cent from Thursday to take account of this month's 1 per cent bank base rate reduction, and subsequent 0.9 per cent cut in mortgage rates.

The Halifax Building Society said yesterday that it will make cuts of between 0.75 per cent and 1.1 per cent for its 14 million investors. It also announced increases of up to 1.5 per cent on its Maxium current account.

The biggest cut is on the Monthly Income Xtra account, which falls from 10.4 per cent to 9.5 per cent for new investors. The rates on the main accounts will be cut by 0.8 per cent. This is the most "rate-sensitive" savings sector and further fine tuning is likely in the coming weeks as other institutions announce their rates. On £10,000 investors will receive 10.2 per cent, above £25,000 the rate will be 10.7 per cent and over £50,000

it will be 11.2 per cent. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which will cut its mortgage rate by 1.15 per cent for existing investors from December 1, announced cuts to its investment account rates of 0.75 per cent from yesterday.

This gives a new rate of 11.5 per cent on the postal London Share Account. The instant access account requires a minimum investment of £2,500. The Cheltenham Gold Account will pay from 6 per cent to 10.25 per cent.

There are about six savers for every building society borrower and investors are much more aware of competitive rates when reductions take place than when rates go up. Because of this most societies will set rates then watch the competition.

The Abbey National, which cut its mortgage rate by a narrower margin than the societies, is expected to announce savings rates today.

Midland abandons Forward sale

By NEIL BENNETT

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank has been forced to abandon the sale of Forward Trust, its finance house subsidiary, after offers for the business fell almost £100 million short of expectations.

The bank said a "number of parties had expressed interest" in buying Forward Trust but blamed the deterioration in the economic climate for making it difficult to obtain a satisfactory price.

Samuel Montagu and Goldman Sachs, the merchant banks commissioned to handle the disposal, are thought to have started negotiations with some international banks after the sale was announced on August 2. It became clear none would pay more than Forward's net asset value of about £300 million. Midland had initially hoped for a substantial premium.

The bank decided to sell Forward

Britain's third largest consumer finance business, because it did not fit into core banking operations. Midland also needed capital released by the disposal to cover heavy bad debt write-offs this year. It is now faced with a continuing shortage of capital which will prevent it providing more fully against its \$7.19 billion of third world debt.

The collapse of negotiations to sell Forward also throws into doubt Barclays' plans to sell Mercantile Credit, its finance house business. Barclays insists that negotiations were continuing with one or more suitors. But one analyst said he doubted whether the bank would receive more than Mercantile's book value of £160 million in the sale.

Barclays also confirmed yesterday it is planning to cut 1,800 jobs and close 110 urban branches as part of a five-year cost reduction programme. The 1,300 clerical and 500 management jobs will go as the

bank reorganises its 2,600 branches into 467 local clusters. The bank promised there would be no compulsory redundancies. The cost-cutting programme is similar to others already in place at rival banks, and is an effort to control the bank's cost to income ratio and improve profitability.

TSB Group, meanwhile, has announced it has beaten its target of 3,200 job cuts by 300 with two days to go before the close of its financial year. The bank had originally promised to reduce its staff by 3,200 during the current financial year. It has achieved this with an equal mixture of voluntary redundancies and natural wastage.

The job losses are part of a three-year programme to reduce staff by 5,000, the result of a strategic review of the retail bank last year.

No moving forward, page 25

Moss Bros dips to £1m

MICHAEL POWELL



ROWLAND Gee, above, managing director of Moss Bros, the menswear retailer which owns Caci Gee and Suit Co as well as hiring formal dress wear, said the economic outlook continues to have a disturbing effect on retailing. He expects the second half to be more difficult than last year. Pre-tax profits in the six

months to end-June fell from £1.77 million to £1.1 million while trading profits rose from £893,000 to £1.1 million. Sales rose from £22.8 million to £25 million and earnings per share fell from 7.07p to 4.32p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. The shares fell 3p to 125p.

Times, page 25

DTI waits to discuss Polly Peck

By MATTHEW BOND

DESPITE weekend optimism, no meeting has yet taken place between the three administrators to Polly Peck International and trade and industry department officials.

Over the weekend, Richard Stone, of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, one of the three administrators, expressed firm conviction that a meeting would take place on Monday. Yesterday DTI officials said no such meeting had taken place, but they hoped one would be arranged soon.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said last week he wanted to hear from the administrators at the earliest opportunity whether they thought there were grounds for a DTI investigation. The administrators do not expect to be able to determine the need for an investigation for some time, but thought an early meeting with the DTI might be useful.

Asil Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, is keen to see a DTI investigation launched. He believes an inquiry would reveal the part played in the demise of his company by regulatory bodies.

Io Fraokfurt, German bondholders had their bonds "accelerated" yesterday. As a result the bonds become immediately repayable and took alongside Polly Peck's other bank creditors. Arab Banking Corp-Daus & Co GmbH is recommending holders to cancel their bonds and demand early repayment.

Thomson profits alert

From A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

THE French state-controlled electronics firm Thomson SA said yesterday that it expects full-year profits to be less than the 497 million francs attributable net profit (Fr1.56 billion total group net profit) earned in 1989 because of heavier financial charges.

Turnover in 1990 is estimated at just more than Fr75 billion compared with Fr76.6

billion in 1989. Thomson's operating profit increased in the first half to Fr857 million from Fr807 million a year earlier.

Interest income also rose, to Fr1.26 billion, but interest costs and other financial charges rose, contributing to a financial loss of Fr729 million against a loss of Fr446 million a year earlier.

Sport, page 40

Bankers' pressure forces Scholar to resign

By MARTIN BARRICK

IRVING Scholar has resigned as a non-executive director of Tottenham Hotspur, quoted parent of the North London football club, apparently bowing to pressure from the company's bankers.

Mr Scholar's resignation, tendered at a board meeting on Sunday night but confirmed yesterday, clears the way for the publication of a circular giving a detailed explanation of the company's financial position later this week.

Mr Scholar who is the company's largest shareholder with 26 per cent remains as chairman of the football club. But his departure from the main board was considered essential if a proposed £13 million rights issue intended to resuscitate the company's ailing finances was to proceed. Group borrowings are believed to exceed £13 million as a result of cost overruns on the club's new stand.

Douglas Alexiou acting chairman of Tottenham said: "He resigned last night and the board accepted it with regret. He has served the company generously and loyally."

The International Stock Exchange is awaiting clarification from the Tottenham board of the events surrounding dealings between Mr Scholar and Robert Maxwell. The publisher lent £11 million to a private investment company controlled by Mr Scholar, which in turn lent the money to Tottenham.

The stock exchange has studied a report by Ashurst Morris Crisp, the City lawyer which is believed to be critical of Mr Scholar and other Tottenham directors. But the company and Brown Shipley its broker, have yet to agree on the wording of the circular which will be sent to shareholders.

Mr Scholar is the third member of the main board to have departed as a consequence of the company's dealings with Mr Maxwell. Bob Holt was replaced as chief executive and Derek Prier resigned as finance director.

In addition Paul Bohrlir resigned as non-executive chairman but he remains on the board. The other remaining directors are Mr Alexiou, Tony Berry and Frank Sinclair, who also sit on the board of the football club.

Tottenham shares were suspended at 91p on October 19.

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Chrysler loss of \$214m underlines US car woes

From JOHN DURE in NEW YORK

CHRYSLER Corporation has reported a \$214 million loss in the third quarter after a 15 per cent fall in sales revenue, underlining the woes of the American car industry.

General Motors, the largest American car producer, which reports its third quarter profits tomorrow, is also expected to report a big loss after shutting four plants at a cost of more than \$700 million.

Ford Motor Company, which reports its third quarter results today, is also expected to release

poor results with a fall in profits for the first six months from \$3 billion to \$1.3 billion.

In the first nine months of this year, Chrysler reported a profit of \$37 million compared with \$1.02 billion last year. Revenue fell from \$27.1 billion to \$22.9 billion.

Lee Iacocca, Chrysler chairman, said: "We anticipated 1990 would be a tough year for the industry but we didn't anticipate the Gulf crisis, the budget fiasco and the huge incentive programme to encourage reluctant consumers."

American car firms have been

spending about \$1,000 per vehicle in incentives to encourage sales in a market where car sales have fallen by 8 per cent this year.

Chrysler's share of the market has fallen to 8.9 per cent in the third quarter compared with 12.8 per cent last year. But it has improved its share of the truck market, up from 13.7 per cent to 17.3 per cent.

Mr Iacocca has recently announced a cost-cutting programme of \$2.5 billion by June next year. Despite the poor result, which was in line with analysts' expectations, Mr Iacocca said the company

planned to maintain its existing \$17 billion new model programme over the next five years.

The Americans, under pressure from Japanese producers, are being forced to spend heavily on new models at a time when falling sales have cut profits.

Ford is planning to spend \$1.9 billion over the next five years at its British Jaguar plant, despite losses at Jaguar of \$79.2 million last year.

General Motors is expected to report a profit of \$235 million before any special charges, which means if it announces a big write-off its loss

for the quarter could be more than \$300 million. In the first six months it reported a profit of \$1.6 billion compared with a \$3 billion last year.

General Motors has pledged that its plants in America would be operating at 100 per cent capacity by 1992, which means it will have to close more than the four plants envisaged at present and cut at least a million vehicles a year from present capacity.

Such a move would be welcomed on Wall Street as a sign that the company is at last facing up to its challenges.

Shares fall at Sinclair Goldsmith

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SHARES in Sinclair Goldsmith, the surveyor, estate agent and property consultant, slumped from 55p to 32p after warning of "a sizeable loss" for the six months to end November.

Neil Sinclair, the chairman, said at the company's annual meeting that steps were being taken to reduce operating costs, but added "it is important to keep our key people together in readiness for an improvement in the market". Mr Sinclair estimated that costs for this year would be no higher than last year. Sinclair now employs 68 staff.

The company has no borrowings and sufficient cash to cover the losses, he said, "but an upturn in the volume of fees will be necessary to enable us to make a profit in the second six months".

American electricity firms switch on to Britain

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN power companies are likely to take a growing interest in the UK electricity market, according to the president of the American company that is building Britain's first gas-fired power station.

Bob Baldwin, of Enron Power Construction, said: "Britain is the unique market in the world where you can come in and develop a project completely freely."

"It is very difficult in the States because we have vertically integrated utilities."

Mr Baldwin was speaking after signing a £58 million contract under which Wimpey will complete most of the general construction work on a new 1,725 megawatt (mw) power station on Teesside.

Teesside Power, the operating company, is a joint venture between Enron (50 per cent) and four British supply companies that have contracted to buy part of its output: Midlands Electricity, Northern Electricity, South Wales Electricity and South Western Electricity.

The £565 million plant will be the world's biggest combined heat and power station. ICI's neighbouring Wilton works will take steam supplies. ICI's power needs, totalling 257mw, will also be met under contract. Enron will sell 168mw of power into the electricity spot market, the "pool", on its own account.

The Teesside power station will consume a fifth of the capacity of a 250-mile, 36-inch-diameter gas pipeline that is to be built from Amoco's Everest and Lomond fields in the North Sea.

Mr Baldwin said that the cost of building and running the Teesside station would be "a little below" the operating costs of the established coal-fired stations run by the state-owned power companies.

One other American power group has already revealed plans to build a power station in Britain.

Mission Energy, a subsidiary of Southern California Edison, has linked with Texaco to evaluate prospects for a 1,000-1,100mw gas-fired power station alongside Texaco's Pembroke refinery in Wales.

Both National Power and PowerGen, the two state-owned electricity companies set for privatisation in February, have already announced plans to build their own gas-fired power stations.



Sprinting ahead despite rivals' low margins: Simon Bentley of Blacks Leisure

Blacks sports £1.8m profits

By MARTIN WALLER

DESPITE tougher conditions on the high street Blacks Leisure, the sports and fashion retailer and wholesaler, raised its pre-tax profit in the six months to end-September to £1.82 million from £842,000. The interim dividend is held at 1p, a profit shortfall from the Miss Sam womenswear subsidiary meant the passing of the last final dividend.

Simon Bentley, the chair-

man and chief executive, said the sports and camping side performed very strongly, pre-interest profits here rising by 78 per cent to £1.6 million, while on the sports wholesale side they jumped from just £180,000 to £1.6 million.

But fashion and textiles, which includes Miss Sam, barely scraped into profit, earning £100,000 against £400,000. Mr Bentley said some competitors were working on painfully low margins.

"People will go out of business. We will still be there," he said.

Pre-tax profits came after interest charges which were boosted by £299,000 to £967,000 by the group's £9 million borrowings.

"The performance in the remainder of the year will be influenced by the very important Christmas and winter periods," Mr Bentley said.

Times, page 25

Medeva has talks over Wellcome vaccines business

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MEDEVA, the medical research and pharmaceuticals company, which last week sold its over-the-counter drugs range to a subsidiary of Boots for £18.5 million, is negotiating to buy Wellcome's human vaccines business.

Wellcome had said that it intended to phase out human vaccine manufacture, while safeguarding the supply of essential vaccines to the British market.

Medeva is the dominant supplier of influenza and BCG vaccines in Britain, and the addition of Wellcome's range, which includes typhoid, diphtheria, polio, pertussis, cholera and yellow fever, would enable Medeva to offer a full range of vaccines.

Medeva already supplies about 70 million doses per year in a high-volume low-margin operation.

The proposed acquisition would add a further 20 million doses, although Wellcome's business is more of a low-volume high-margin operation.

The deal, which is thought to be worth about £15 million, would add about £12 million to annual sales.

Talks, which have been going on for some time, are "at an advanced stage," How-

ever, contracts probably will not be signed for at least another five or six weeks.

Bernard Taylor, Medeva's chairman, who was a former chief executive of Glaxo, said he was excited at the possibilities arising from the combination of the Wellcome and Medeva businesses.

He said: "The group would benefit considerably from the infusion of the highly regarded Wellcome range of products, and the combined businesses would supply 90 million doses per annum of one of the widest ranges of vaccines available."

Shares in Medeva firmed 1p to 72p on the announcement.



Taylor: considerable benefit

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Peel seeks buyer for Mersey stake

By MATTHEW BOND

PEEL Holdings, the property company controlled by John Whitaker, has confirmed reports that it is seeking a buyer for its 10.82 per cent stake in Mersey Docks and Harbour.

It is also expected that Manchester Ship Canal, which is also controlled by Mr Whitaker, will sell its 10.17 per cent stake in MDH. MSC bought its shares mainly through a dawn raid in May.

Mr Whitaker's move was unexpected. Having built up stakes in MSC and MDH, Mr Whitaker was close to controlling both ends of the Manchester Ship Canal and had a big interest in the land banks of both companies.

It had been thought that Mr Whitaker planned to merge the two companies to create a new port for the northwest, backed by substantial property assets.

A statement from Mr Whitaker said: "Peel is now concentrating its resources on property investment and the shareholding in Mersey Docks plays no part in this strategy."

The biggest shareholder in MDH is the government, which owns a 20.67 per cent stake.

The government has said this stake will not be sold until the results of a trade department investigation into MDH share dealing is known. The DTI investigation was launched in April 1989.

MSC was unchanged at £21. Last month the shares hit £35 briefly on the suggestion that Mr Whitaker was to bid for the shares he did not already own.

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Citybond shares fall 75p

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Citybond Storage Services, the third market bonded storage company, plunged 75p to 120p. The fall came on the day Citybond announced its involvement in talks that "may result in a possible offer for the company".

Citybond insisted there was no connection. A spokesman said the price fall was due to the end of the five-year period under which Business Expansion Scheme shareholders can sell their investment without losing tax relief.

The company, which came to the third market in January via an introduction by John Fry, the financial group, said shareholders will be notified of the talks' outcome.

It is now capitalised at about £2.47 million.

Klark rises on details of bid talk

By OUR CITY STAFF

KLARK-Teknik, the sound-equipment maker, has made its second announcement of involvement in bid talks within the last six months.

The company, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, said yesterday that it was in negotiations "which may lead to an offer for the whole of the share capital of the company".

The announcement follows a sharp rise in the company's share price over the last week. The shares put on a further 3p to 63p on the news, after rising 10p immediately before the announcement.

The company made a similar announcement in April this year but abandoned the talks three weeks later.

The shares then soared to 75p before falling back to their year low of 43p in September.

NatPower hedges its rights on debt

By OUR CITY STAFF

NATIONAL Power, the bigger of the country's two electricity generators, has confirmed that it retains the right to renegotiate the £450 million of debt the government has insisted it takes on ahead of privatisation.

Government sources had indicated that the debt issue was settled once and for all, after the smaller PowerGen agreed to accept £270 million of borrowings.

But a spokesman for National Power, which has announced an ambitious investment programme that will include diversification into coal and oil production, said that the company would be retaining the right to reconsider the matter at a later date.

The situation hasn't changed since September, when it came out that the government wants to inject £450 million," the spokesman said.

"We said that we accepted that as a basis for carrying work forward but that we might want to revise that later in the year."

The board is believed to be concerned that debts of the level envisaged by the government are too high, in the light of the uncertainty that lies ahead for the electricity industry.

National Power has said that it hopes to buy into the offshore oil industry by participating in the consortia bidding in the next round of licences and to invest in coal, both in this country and overseas.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Peek in talks to buy Philips subsidiary

PEEK, the electronics group specialising in traffic and data systems, is negotiating to acquire Philips' Dutch traffic systems operation. Peek is in exclusive talks with Philips Nederland to acquire a majority holding in the traffic systems business unit of Philips, which is located at Hilversum in Holland. If this deal goes through, it will be the fifth traffic acquisition that Peek has made in the past four years. No price has yet been put on the company. Ken Maud, Peek's chief executive, said: "We have not agreed on any amount. We are not into the figures side as yet."

Philips Traffic Systems, which employs 200 people, is involved in the development, production and sale of products and systems in the areas of traffic control, motorway signalling and the control of public transport. Sales are expected to exceed 50 million guilders (£15 million) in 1990. Net assets are believed to be worth at least £6 million. The purchase price would be funded from Peek's internal resources. Peek shares firmed 1p to 57p.

Lowland revenue rises

LOWLAND Investment Company, the investment trust, increased pre-tax revenue by 26 per cent to £2.77 million in the year to end-September. Net asset value fell by 26 per cent to 165.28p per share. Income from investments grew from £2.55 million to £3.11 million, although interest charges rose to £677,000 (£453,000). Earnings per share were 8.78p (7.04p) and the final dividend is 5.25p (4.50p), making a total of 7.75p (6.0p).

Losses deepen at Lendu

LENDU Holdings, which has interests in rubber, sheep farming and grain production, saw pre-tax losses deepen from £96,000 to £117,000 in the half year to end-June. Turnover declined from £133,000 to £58,000. The loss per share stood at 0.72p (0.58p). Once again, there is no interim dividend. The company said western Australian wool prices had deteriorated, though recent rains had improved cereal crop prospects.

Fact chairman resigns

PETER Linacre, chairman and chief executive of Caird Group, has resigned as non-executive director of EW Fact, the training consultancy, and has been released from an undertaking not to sell any of his shares in the company. Mr Linacre acquired 800,000 shares at 105p a share in May, when EW Fact raised £2.21 million through a rights issue, and was appointed to the board in July. Shares in EW Fact yesterday fell 2p to 106p.

Caird Group, the waste disposal concern, last week retained its independence after Severn Trent, the privatised water company, allowed its £78 million cash bid to lapse. Mr Linacre has agreed to concentrate on his role as chief executive. A non-executive chairman is now being sought.

BA Interflug 'interest'

BRITISH Airways has confirmed that it is interested in buying a stake in Interflug, the former East German state-owned airline. Replying to reports that Heinz Rühmann, the chief executive of Lufthansa (Deutsche), had said British Airways' interest in Interflug was "not serious", a company spokesman said: "Of course we are interested. The company has been asking for information about Interflug and we are waiting to receive it."

Hambros to study airport

THE Northern Ireland office has appointed Hambros Bank to advise on the feasibility of privatising Northern Ireland Airports, the state-owned company which operates Belfast International Airport at Aldergrove. Belfast International has a current passenger throughput of 2.2 million annually and is second only to Heathrow among UK airports for the volume of air freight handled. It has topped £5 million in pre-tax profits in each of the last three years.

VME to buy Akermans

VME Group, the Dutch construction-equipment maker, has made a recommended cash offer for Akermans Versterkt, the Swedish excavation-machinery manufacturer. The bid of 148 kronor for both "A" and "B" shares in Akermans values the company at 505 million kronor (£46 million). VME is jointly owned by Volvo of Sweden and America's Clark Equipment.

VME said it already had shares equivalent to 4.5 per cent of the Akermans share capital and 29.3 per cent of the voting rights. It said holders of an additional 20.4 per cent of the share capital and 13.3 per cent of voting rights had indicated they would accept the bid. The Akermans board said the bid provided a solution in the face of hardening international competition.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily % chg	Yearly % chg	Daily % chg	Yearly % chg	Daily % chg	Yearly % chg
The World (free)	574.1	0.1	-31.8	0.3	-23.3	0.0	-17.6
EAFF (free)	109.7	0.1	-32.0	0.2	-23.3	0.1	-17.6
Europe (free)	106.3	0.0	-33.6	0.0	-28.6	0.0	-19.8
Nth America (free)	599.3	-0.3	-21.2	-0.5	-17.8	-0.4	-4.6
Nordic (free)	129.5	-0.3	-20.8	-0.7	-17.6	-0.4	-4.1
Nth America (free)	384.2	0.3	-28.8	0.2	-13.8	0.2	-13.5
Pacific (free)	1168.2	-0.7	-25.1	-0.9	-18.8	-0.8	-9.3
Pacific (free)	185.0	-0.8	-17.1	-1.0	-10.4	-0.8	0.4
Pacific (free)	2857.0	0.3	-40.6	0.4	-35.2	0.2	-2.8
Far East (free)	3422.2	0.3	-40.6	0.5	-35.9	0.2	-2.8
Australia (free)	236.8	-0.2	-31.8	-0.2	-16.8	-0.3	-17.4
Austria (free)	1362.8	-3.2	-3.8	-3.4	-0.8	-3.2	11.1
Belgium (free)	726.0	0.1	-26.8	-0.1	-22.3	0.1	-11.3
Canada (free)	398.1	0.2	-34.0	0.1	-19.7	0.2	-20.1
Denmark (free)	1165.6	-0.4	-11.5	-0.6	-6.0	-0.5	7.2
Finland (free)	64.0	0.7	-44.5	0.4	-40.2	0.6	-32.6
France (free)	83.7	-0.5	-43.8	-0.8	-39.5	-0.6	-32.0
Germany (free)	599.0	0.1	-25.9	-0.2	-21.3	0.0	-10.3
Hong Kong (free)	701.2	-0.3	-22.8	-0.5	-17.1	-0.4	-7.5
Italy (free)	1943.5	-0.2	-12.4	-0.2	-5.9	-0.3	6.1
Japan (free)	274.7	-1.1	-28.7	-1.2	-22.7	-1.1	-13.7
Netherlands (free)	3804.9	0.3	-41.8	0.5	-36.9	0.2	-28.2
New Zealand (free)	735.2	0.0	-22.3	-0.3	-15.6	-0.1	-5.8
Norway (free)	61.8	-2.6	-40.1	-3.6	-29.8	-2.8	-27.4
Sweden (free)	1202.6	-1.4	-10.4	-1.7	-3.2	-1.5	8.5
Switzerland (free)	214.9	-1.6	-8.0	-1.6	-0.8	-1.7	11.4
Singapore (free)	1445.8	1.1	-27.6	0.3	-21.3	1.1	-12.4
Spain (free)	173.2	-1.0	-26.8	-1.3	-23.1	-1.1	-11.4
Sweden (free)	1224.5	-0.2	-17.1	-0.2	-17.1	-0.2	-11.4
Switzerland (free)	182.7	-0.6	-24.6	-0.9	-20.3	-0.6	-8.6
UK (free)	724.6	-0.3	-20.8	-0.3	-20.3	-0.3	-4.7
USA (free)	108.9	-0.2	-21.3	-0.3	-20.8	-0.3	-4.7
UK (free)	612.2	-0.2	-15.1	-0.2	-15.1	-0.3	2.8
USA (free)	347.4	0.3	-28.1	0.2	-12.9	0.2	-12.9

Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 1,581	CU 438	Lomb 1,057	Shaw 308
Admiral 2,483	Coolson 1,881	Luz 1,582	Shaw & N 1,522
ABN-Amro 1,054	Courtauld 686	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
Amers 318	Dagmar 174	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
Anglo 575	Dixons 366	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
Argus 680	Dixons 366	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
ASDA 987	Dixons 366	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
ASDA 987	Dixons 366	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258
ASDA 987	Dixons 366	M&S 1,258	Shaw & N 1,258

Asil is 100

Asil takes the spotlight off Robert

COMMENT

If anyone in London has reason to be grateful to Asil Nasir and his problems at Polly Peck, it must be Robert Louis-Dreyfus, chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi. Louis-Dreyfus is charged with pulling Saatchi out of the mess into which it has sunk, with missed dividends, bankers at the door and gearing much too high for comfort. Like Polly Peck, Saatchi has endured bear raids on its shares and suffered the intense disavowal reserved especially for stock market stars which fall from grace. But, unlike Polly Peck, there is a choice of several escape routes.

The big problem for Saatchi is the size of its debt, actual and potential, but the good news is that the group is now trading with a positive cashflow. It is being managed, for the first time in years, with the utmost respect given to the daily cash balances and, little by little, net debt is being reduced. It is now thought to be below £200 million.

In 1993, however, looms the repayment of the £211 million Euroconvertible preference issue. In a sharp recession such as we are now seeing, retained cash is

unlikely to accumulate anywhere near fast enough to repay the holders of the Euroconvertible, and another escape route has to be found. The advertising world, not noted for an abundance of brotherly love, is well aware of this. But there are a number of solutions which Louis-Dreyfus is examining.

The first is to attempt a deal with the convertible holders, raising their interest rate from the current 6.75 per cent to double figures in return for an escape from the infamous "put" which gives them the right of redemption. The second is to offer them some money back plus a slug of new paper, probably straight equity.

The third is to raise enough money to pay them off, which will require the issue of new shares. To this end, the possibility of bringing in a new party to underwrite a rights issue is being examined.

None of these could be

described as a soft option. Each will require a great deal of selling to both the Euroconvertible holders and to the equity holders. Unfortunately for Louis-Dreyfus, there is little overlap between the two groups of shareholders, and each is likely to suspect the other is getting the better deal, no matter how carefully the balance is struck.

Each side, however, ought to understand that without a deal, they are still likely to see Saatchi go down.

Time, moreover, is not on Louis-Dreyfus's side. While the triple evils of redemption of the Euroconvertible, a heavy rights issue or certain dilution hang over the shares, the price will stay close to the floor. With the exception of the rights issue option, a deal will be easier to pull off sooner rather than later,

for the more likely it appears that Louis-Dreyfus has a recovery plan that is actually working, the tighter will each investor hold on to his entitlements.

On the brink

Brinkmanship is the name of the game in trade negotiations. The Uruguay round of GATT, due to conclude with a final meeting in Brussels in five weeks' time, should not be written off just because the European Community has failed to agree a proposal on the supposedly crucial agricultural sector. There is, for instance, no reason why the deadline should not be put off EC-style, apart from general weariness over the progress of the four-year talks, which still have many other

issues to resolve. Total failure must, however, be viewed as a possibility. America and the Cairns group of food exporters have, after all, rejected in advance the minor concessions on farm subsidies that were too much for France and Germany to stomach. America may feel that it has not made sufficient net gains in other areas, notably services, to give in yet again on agriculture.

The three most powerful groups — America, Europe and Japan — would in some ways find it politically easier at home to live with failure. The European Commission and a strong strand of American opinion prefer protection and bilateral deals.

Failure would almost certainly lead to free trade moving sharply backwards rather than merely staying still. But not all would be losers. Most multinational companies have prepared for a world of trade blocs and Japan, apparently the most exposed, has been

catching up fast by building factories within the community and North America. Protection can be good for producers' short term profits, certainly in manufacturing and processing.

The chief losers would be the consumers of industrialised countries, the financial services industry and third world economies. Consumers have votes and have only themselves to blame if they allow their governments to be captured by producer interests. Financial companies will lose opportunities rather than existing business and can make alternative progress in the former centrally planned economies.

Lack of access for poor and heavily indebted countries will, however, make their situation much worse, since the second-best prospect of debt-based domestic industrialisation disappeared with carpet-bagging bankers. Many more will surely be obliged to renege on debt. That does not pose the same threat to banks as it did five years ago. But it would still do a lot of damage to some dodgy balance sheets in all three main centres.

THE failure of Midland Bank to sell Forward Trust, its consumer finance business, is evidence of a collapse in the international market for financial services companies and banks.

In January, British bankers were beaming over the £977 million sale of Yorkshire Bank to National Australia Bank. NAB paid three times Yorkshire's net asset value and almost 14 times its historic earnings. This was for a bank which, though successful, was restricted to a limited area with few obvious expansion opportunities.

The cash raised from the sale gave the capital of Yorkshire's shareholders, including National Westminster, Lloyds and Midland, an important boost when their reserves had been seriously depleted by third world debt provisions.

In November last year, Deutsche Bank paid a similar premium for Morgan Grenfell. In asset finance, Banque Indosuez, and Credit Commercial de France were persuaded earlier this year to buy Garmore and Throgmorton for high prices.

However, in the six months since those record-breaking sales, market prices for financial companies have not merely fallen, they have disappeared. Midland, chaired by Sir Kit McMahon, will not comment on the price it was offered for Forward Trust but it is clear Samuel Montagu and Goldman Sachs, the merchant banks organising the disposal, were struggling to even receive an offer of £300 million, Forward's net asset value.

Previously, Midland had hoped to receive a reasonable premium for Forward Trust, the third largest consumer finance business in the country. The subsidiary's profits fell sharply in the six months to end-June, due to a squeeze on margins from high interest rates and rising bad debts, but most commentators agree it is a solid, well-run business.

TSB Group is facing a similar problem with Target, its life assurance subsidiary. Hill Samuel, which is organising the sale, had originally hoped to complete the deal by early autumn. Now, the pro-



Sale off: Sir Kit McMahon, Midland's chairman

cess is likely to take until Christmas. Meanwhile, senior executives at TSB privately admit the group will not receive anywhere near the £129 million analysts originally estimated the business was worth. The collapse in sale values has been caused by the global shortage of bank capital. When Samuel Montagu first drew up Forward Trust's sale

the banks to raise new capital to finance their own loan books, which puts the acquisition of a large overseas lender out of the question.

American banks are in an even worse predicament with most of them struggling under a growing weight of non-performing property loans in the eastern states.

Chase Manhattan is even unable to hold its dividend, while the combined stock market capitalisation of Chase Manhattan and Citicorp, two of the country's largest banks, is now only £2.6 billion, less than half the value of Barclays. Almost all are cutting back and closing, and have relegated ideas of overseas expansion to the pipe-dream category.

This leaves European institutions. But even their appetite for overseas expansion has dimmed as liquidity among international banks has tightened.

The fall in the values of financial companies has led to some curious contradictions. Barclays insists it will soldier on with the disposal of Mercantile Credit, its consumer finance business.

The bank does not need the capital, and the reason it gives for the sale is that Mercantile is competing with branch lending. But no analyst expects buyers to pay more than the company's net assets of £160 million. Only last month, Barclays was prepared to pay an estimated £200 million, or 2½ times book value, for Merck Finck, the Munich private bank.

The failure to sell Forward Trust also presents Midland with further difficulties. A successful disposal would have released sufficient capital for the bank to weather bad debts this year and next, and still have the scope to increase its provisions against third world debts to the level of the other lenders.

British banks have often been criticised for buying at the top of the market. They are now finding it expensive, or impossible, to sell at the bottom.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Walker pulls bonds punch

TEMPUS

GEORGE Walker has been in some odd scrapes in his time. But even he could not have envisaged having to send out details of a bond issue along with a recommendation to his own shareholders that they do not yet take up their rights.

This odd state of affairs forms a fitting capstone to the controversial £103 million convertible capital bonds issue by Brent Walker, details of which have at last been released, some weeks late, to the stock market.

But while the reaction from the market was that the group had moved back from the brink, the listing documents leave a few questions outstanding. The company is in the middle of vital talks with its bankers. It wants to treat the bond issue as equity and is worried it might breach its loan covenants.

Hovering in the background is the Bank of England, worried about the effect on the market of another big company collapse so soon after Polly Peck.

In these markets any talk with bankers, however technical, affects confidence. Brent Walker shares, after Friday's plunge, rebounded 18p to 63p on yesterday's news before

more mature consideration clipped the price back to 55p. Mr Walker cannot offer the bonds to existing shareholders until the problems with his bankers are cleared up, which must be done before the November 15 extraordinary general meeting.

For this reason he has had to advise shareholders not to take up their rights until they are told the new banking arrangements are in place. They should heed his advice.

Blacks Leisure

THE board of Blacks Leisure might well prefer to forget the past 12 months, although whether shareholders will let it is another matter.

Interim figures from Blacks came days after the announcement of the departure of Bernard Garbacz, the accountant who delivered the kiss of life in 1986, since when the group has had to return to the intensive care ward.

A failed bid for A Goldberg, now in receivership, was followed by disaster at Miss Sam, the womenswear subsidiary bought for £45 million in 1987

that has contributed £2 million to profits since. Stephen Morris, Blacks' managing director and the man in charge of Miss Sam, quit and has agreed to pay £225,000 in an out-of-court settlement.

Pre-tax profits to end-September of £1.82 million, up from £842,000, were struck after interest charges up 45 per cent to £967,000. Gearing has been cut from 150 per cent at the financial year-end to 100 per cent, but there seems little chance of a substantial further reduction immediately.

The Christmas trading season is yet to come. Assuming £3 million pre-tax in the current year, Blacks shares change hands on 3.6 times' future earnings and yield almost 10 per cent. The shares rose 7p to 42p on the figures. The immediate potential upside is dwarfed by the downside.

Moss Bros

ACQUISITION, diversification and high gearing are out; organic growth, core business and cash in the bank are in. Nowadays financial fashions are every bit as important to

Moss Bros, the menswear retailer, as the width of lapels and the cut of a collar.

The group has net cash of £10 million and was ahead of the pack in selling its Covent Garden flagship for £23 million to Gurni. The Japanese group, three years ago. But a strong balance sheet has not stopped the shares from falling 50p below their asset backing and to a three-year low of 125p.

The group, which includes Suit Co. Cecil Gee and Savoy Tailors Guild, put in a credible performance in the first half. Trading profits for the six months to end-July rose 23.5 per cent to £1.10 million on turnover up 9.6 per cent to £25 million. Pre-tax profits were down by 37 per cent to £1.1 million, and earnings fell from 7.07p to 4.32p as a result. The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.5p.

But a warning from the group that the second half has had a disappointing start with like-for-like sales down 1.5 per cent, means that full-year results could be significantly worse than last year. Pre-tax profits of £2.5 million would put the shares on a p/e ratio of 12.5. They look fully valued for the time being.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Blithe spirit

THE Grand Hotel in Birmingham seemed to be having problems with its fire alarm when the Stock Exchange held its regional units dinner there last week. The alarm apparently went off unnecessarily three times in 24 hours, twice within earshot of the assembled City gents. The dinner, which began life when there were several regional stock exchanges, is now effectively a reunion for those who were once involved with those exchanges and provincial broking firms. But just as old acquaintances were happily being renewed, as they finished their last mouthful of the first course, the alarm sounded and the City men were forced to evacuate the building for 15 minutes. The rest of the evening passed without incident, until the wee small hours. At 4.45 am precisely, the alarm went off once more and the City gents were again forced to flee the building. "It was pouring with rain and we had to stand around outside for about 20 minutes," bemoans one senior broker who was present. But their feeling of gloom and despair lifted when they set eyes upon one of their number, sheltering beneath a veranda and resplendent in a striped silk dressing gown, slippers and pyjamas — Brian "Mr USM" Winterlood. Always a dapper dresser, Winterlood looked as if he had walked straight off the set of a Noel Coward play.

"Everyone else had hurriedly pulled on suits or tee shirts, or just raincoats," says my source. "Winterlood, in contrast, was perfection. He had even done his hair."

Long on experience

BURMAH Castrol may have caught Fosco by surprise with its £237 million hostile bid, but the lubricants concern can expect the real battle to begin now that the other side has had time to plan its campaign. For leading the Fosco charge is the doughty Tom Long, who formally becomes chairman next month but is already heavily involved in the company's fight for independence. A former director of BAT Industries, Long spent much of 1989 helping to repel Sir James Goldsmith's unbundling attempts. "I am the only member of the board with direct experience of a

contested takeover bid, even though at BAT we were dealing with junk bonds, not cash," says Long, aged 60. "That experience will certainly be put to good use." Indeed, a glance at Long's curriculum vitae may deter Burmah from delving too deeply into Fosco's recent financial performance. He spent two years serving in the Intelligence Corps in Trieste and is unlikely to leave any stone unturned as he scrutinises Burmah's own record. And although Long is neither a chemist nor a metallurgist, which may appear to be a handicap for an executive at the helm of Fosco, he does know a thing or two about Brazil, an important source of revenue for Fosco. He spent more than 25 years with Souza Cruz, the BAT subsidiary, and in the process, was made an honorary citizen of Rio de Janeiro.

Chain reaction

THE first scheduled Lufthansa flight in 45 years arrived in Berlin at the weekend, but health-conscious British businessmen may be in no hurry to book their seats. For the airline has just reversed a decision, due to go into force this week, to ban smoking on all its domestic flights. "We feared trouble on board," admits a spokesman, adding that many of its customers seemed unable to refrain from chain smoking even though few of Lufthansa's internal flights last more than an hour. "There was so much pressure in the last couple of days from the smokers' lobby, we

thought there could be confrontations," the spokesman explained. "There is a German mentality that does not like the idea of an airline telling them they can't do something." The pro-smoking lobby in Germany has apparently been encouraged by both a sharp increase in cigarette sales there and the fact that the German courts have prevented some restaurants from setting aside areas for non-smokers, arguing that it infringes the rights of smokers.

His way

FRANK Arpino, the one-time Wedd Durlacher partner who went on to join Swiss Bank Corporation, only to be made redundant barely a year later, with numerous others, is back in the City. Arpino, aged 41, and known to friends as "Frank from the Bank" because of his legendary skills as a market-maker, is to take up a senior position with Société Générale Strauss Turballe this week. "I've had four months off and am really looking forward to getting back in," says Arpino who started work in the City in 1967, straight from school, and went on to spend 21 years with Wedd. "You had to start right at the beginning in those days. I just made it on to the old floor before it closed." A specialist in foods and builders, his pitch notched up a minimum gross profit of £1 million during each of the past five years, and he is, he says, now looking to do more of the same.

CAROL LEONARD



"There he goes, there he goes, there he goes..."

2.4 MILLION PC USERS ARE GUILTY OF BREAKING THE UK COPYRIGHT LAW.*

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43% ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR COMPANY'S FORMAL POLICY ON SOFTWARE USE.*

45% ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR COMPANY EVER UNDERTAKING A SIMPLE SOFTWARE AUDIT.*

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[illegible]

^a The number of subjects who were included in each group was determined by the number of subjects who completed the study.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 283: 2663-2668, 2000.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Alcon	Pharmaceuticals	15.00
2	British Airways	Airline	12.50
3	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
4	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
5	British Steel	Steel	11.00
6	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
7	British Water	Utilities	9.00
8	British Airways	Airline	12.50
9	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
10	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
11	British Steel	Steel	11.00
12	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
13	British Water	Utilities	9.00
14	British Airways	Airline	12.50
15	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
16	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
17	British Steel	Steel	11.00
18	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
19	British Water	Utilities	9.00
20	British Airways	Airline	12.50
21	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
22	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
23	British Steel	Steel	11.00
24	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
25	British Water	Utilities	9.00
26	British Airways	Airline	12.50
27	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
28	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
29	British Steel	Steel	11.00
30	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
31	British Water	Utilities	9.00
32	British Airways	Airline	12.50
33	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
34	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
35	British Steel	Steel	11.00
36	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
37	British Water	Utilities	9.00
38	British Airways	Airline	12.50
39	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
40	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
41	British Steel	Steel	11.00
42	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
43	British Water	Utilities	9.00
44	British Airways	Airline	12.50
45	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
46	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
47	British Steel	Steel	11.00
48	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
49	British Water	Utilities	9.00
50	British Airways	Airline	12.50
51	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
52	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
53	British Steel	Steel	11.00
54	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
55	British Water	Utilities	9.00
56	British Airways	Airline	12.50
57	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
58	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
59	British Steel	Steel	11.00
60	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
61	British Water	Utilities	9.00
62	British Airways	Airline	12.50
63	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
64	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
65	British Steel	Steel	11.00
66	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
67	British Water	Utilities	9.00
68	British Airways	Airline	12.50
69	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
70	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
71	British Steel	Steel	11.00
72	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
73	British Water	Utilities	9.00
74	British Airways	Airline	12.50
75	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
76	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
77	British Steel	Steel	11.00
78	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
79	British Water	Utilities	9.00
80	British Airways	Airline	12.50
81	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
82	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
83	British Steel	Steel	11.00
84	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
85	British Water	Utilities	9.00
86	British Airways	Airline	12.50
87	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
88	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
89	British Steel	Steel	11.00
90	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
91	British Water	Utilities	9.00
92	British Airways	Airline	12.50
93	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
94	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00
95	British Steel	Steel	11.00
96	British Sugar	Food & Drink	10.00
97	British Water	Utilities	9.00
98	British Airways	Airline	12.50
99	British Telecom	Telecommunications	18.00
100	British Petroleum	Oil & Gas	14.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Two readers shared the £6000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Peter Skopov, of Allerton, Bradford, and Mr Mark Speed, of Worthing, Sussex, each receive £3000.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Share Price	Change	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

UNDATED

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

INDEX-LINKED

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 22. Dealings end November 2. Contango day November 5. Settlement day November 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
1	12.00	11.80	Alcon	12.00	11.80	+0.20	+1.7	15.0
2	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
3	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
4	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
5	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
6	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
7	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
8	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
9	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
10	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
11	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
12	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
13	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
14	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
15	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
16	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
17	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
18	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
19	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
20	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
21	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
22	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
23	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
24	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
25	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
26	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
27	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
28	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
29	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
30	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
31	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
32	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
33	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
34	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
35	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
36	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
37	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
38	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
39	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
40	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
41	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
42	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
43	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
44	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
45	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
46	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
47	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
48	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
49	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
50	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
51	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
52	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
53	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
54	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
55	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
56	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
57	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
58	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
59	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
60	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
61	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Change	%	P/E
62	12.50	12.30	British Airways	12.50	12.30	+0.20	+1.6	12.5
63	18.00	17.80	British Telecom	18.00	17.80	+0.20	+1.1	18.0
64	14.00	13.80	British Petroleum	14.00	13.80	+0.20	+1.4	14.0
65	11.00	10.80	British Steel	11.00	10.80	+0.20	+1.8	11.0
66	10.00	9.80	British Sugar	10.00	9.80	+0.20	+2.0	10.0
67	9.00	8.80	British Water	9.00	8.80	+0.20	+2.2	9.0

340	25	Life Insurance	75	25	-	19.3		
340	25	Life Insurance	75	25	-	19.3		
102	16	Life Sciences	89	89	-	33		
102	16	Life Sciences	89	89	-	33		
313	28	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
313	28	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
177	21	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
177	21	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
843	18	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
843	18	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
142	11	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
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142	11	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
142	11	Mach 4	223	240	17	11.3		
142	11	Mach 4						

**Personnel Director, Rancal Group.
P.O. Box 705, Wickhams Cay, 1 Road Town, Tortola,
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

DNA evidence under test

Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, wants increased powers to take DNA samples from rape suspects for matching against genetic traces left on the victim or at the scene of the crime. He has also argued for the introduction of DNA profiles of all males to be placed on a national database.

DNA profiling, using blood or other body tissue, is a scientific method that is said to be able to establish family relationships between two individuals beyond any shadow of a doubt. DNA is now a familiar term. It is the genetic material contained in all living cells with a nucleus that makes every individual different. The only exception is in the case of genetically identical twins. The configuration is the same in all the cells of an individual and its characteristics remain unchanged for life.

A successful forensic analysis of DNA, however, relies on several factors: the ability to extract DNA from the sample, the quality of the DNA once extracted, and the experimental technique developed to interpret the results.

Some concerns are slowly appearing and need to be resolved before Sir Peter's proposals can be taken any further. It is, of course, hardly surprising that the system of DNA profiling has had a dramatic impact in so many areas of the law. After all, proof of parentage is often of vital signifi-

Genetic detection must be perfected,

Andrew Grubb and David Pearl write

cance — in paternity disputes themselves, but also in some divorce proceedings where a former husband seeks to reduce his obligations to a child of the family on the grounds that he believes he is not the father.

Profiling has had an increasing role in the investigation of crime and it is, of course, this aspect that concerns Sir Peter. For instance, in a case in Florida, the state presented DNA identification evidence linking the defendant to the crime of sexual battery. The DNA profile compared the defendant's DNA structure shown in his blood and that found in the vaginal swab taken from the victim shortly after the attack. The test concluded that the chance that the DNA strands found in the defendant's blood would be duplicated in some other person's cells was one in 839,914,540. The defendant was convicted on the basis of this evidence.

DNA profiling was used in a dramatic way in another American case to establish that two girls

LEGAL BRIEF

were switched at birth in a Florida hospital.

The Human Organ Transplants Act 1989, recently introduced in Britain, prohibits commercial dealings in human organs intended for transplant. It restricts the transplanting of organs between persons who are not genetically related. Again, DNA profiling will be available to show that the donor and recipient are genetically related. In immigration law, DNA profiling has revolutionised the procedure under which people from the Indian sub-continent who have settled in Britain can establish that the minor applicants they are sponsoring to come to the country are their children. DNA profiling has developed so quickly that the problems are no surprise. Quality control is vital, and criticisms in the United States have led defence lawyers in Britain to call for greater control over the testing techniques used.

There are at present no guidelines or regulations on the way the

tests are carried out. In criminal investigations, the samples will usually be minute particles of human fluid or tissue, and the substances may have degraded to an unacceptable extent.

It is hardly surprising that the technique has been strongly criticised by some American courts. The quality control issue is linked to arguments over the statistical information of the variables in DNA patterns in the population. If the statistical tests are not valid, the probability estimates used in the profiling conclusions are largely irrelevant.

This powerful tool must be developed as an exact science. So much depends on its reliability that the problems of quality control and statistical variations must be solved urgently. Talk of central databases of DNA profiles are premature, not only because there are formidable human rights arguments against storing such information, but also because the science of DNA profiling, exciting and innovative as it is, has not yet quite established itself, especially in criminal law, as a technique wholly free from the possibility of error.

Andrew Grubb is senior lecturer at the Law School and the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College London, and David Pearl is professor of law and dean of the School of Law at the University of East Anglia. The authors' book, *Blood Testing, AIDS, and DNA Profiling: Law and Policy*, is published by Jordans.



Genes that tell the tale: specialists in genetic fingerprinting analyse samples at ICI Diagnostics

Court of Appeal

Law Report October 30 1990

Court of Appeal

Severe sanctions for misdescription of goods

Regina v Nash
Before Lord Justice Watkins,
Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr
Justice Allott
[Judgment August 9]

The motor trade should be aware of the severe sanctions behind the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. Mr Justice Allott said, when giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal on an appeal against an immediate three-month prison sentence imposed on a plea of guilty to supplying a repaired "written off" motor car which had been advertised as being in excellent condition.

The appeal was brought by Stephen Leonard Nash, aged 39, a car mechanic, of Plumpton Lane, Plumpton, Sussex, who, on re-arraignment in Lewes Crown Court before Miss Recorder H. C. Hallett, QC, on August 3, pleaded guilty to three counts of an indictment: (2) applying a false trade description to an Audi GT 500 coupe car, registration WCO 27V, namely

"excellent condition," by means of an advertisement in the publication *Friday Ad* on March 10, whereas the car was not in excellent condition, contrary to section 1(1)(a) of the 1968 Act; (3) supplying the car with that description, contrary to section 1(1)(b); and (4) failing to disclose in the advertisement that goods were offered for sale in course of a business, contrary to section 22 of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

Count (1), obtaining the cost of the car by deception, to which the appellant pleaded not guilty, was ordered to lie on the file. No separate penalty was passed on either of counts (2) or (3). Compensation of £5,000 as agreed was ordered to be paid within 12 months to the buyer of the car from the appellant.

By section 18 of the 1968 Act, a person convicted on indictment is liable to a fine or imprisonment for two years or both, if convicted summarily the liability is to a fine.

Mr T. G. Restell, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

MR JUSTICE ALLOTT said that the car looked immaculate and the purchaser, having driven it, bought it for £2,450. Eight days later it came to a halt in traffic and when the buyer pulled away the drive shaft became disconnected from the vehicle.

The engineer's report amply justified the recorder's description when she passed sentence. She said that the appellant had bought the written-off car and had gone to a lot of trouble to do it up cosmetically. Mechanically he had left it as a potential death trap, not only to its driver but to other road users and the consequences could have been horrific and no doubt fatal.

On appeal Mr Restell had referred to section 75 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 which specifically prohibited the sale of unroadworthy vehicles and

created an offence of supplying such a vehicle. The offence was triable summarily only and the maximum sentence was a fine on level 5, that is, £2,000.

He contended that it would be contrary to Parliament's intention if the offences under the 1968 Act, which were triable on indictment and carried a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment, were to be used to combat the mischief the recorder had in mind.

The prosecution had been properly brought under an appropriate Act and the recorder was entitled to exercise her powers under it.

Mr Restell had informed their Lordships that his researches had not revealed any comparable case in which a false trade description of a vehicle had led to imprisonment. His Lordship said that, as it may, the mischief was closely analogous to operating a motor vehicle in an

unroadworthy condition, which could on the most serious occasions involve the operator in a charge of manslaughter.

The motor trade should be aware of the severe sanctions behind the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

As to the compensation order: the buyer had lost the price and interest and, at the behest of the East Sussex County Council, had incurred storage charges which, partly because of an unwarranted delay in bringing proceedings, had amounted to no less than £1,600. Damages for loss of use and some hiring charges brought his claim to well over £5,000. Mr Restell described the agreed figure of £5,000 as conservative.

The recorder was not to be criticised but the appropriate sentence, six days after the prison gates closed behind the appellant, was to uphold the three months imprisonment and suspend it for two years and uphold the compensation order.

Requiring solicitor to pay costs of other parties

Capita v Comer
Before Lord Donaldson of
Lynton, Master of the Rolls,
Lord Justice Balcombe and
Lord Justice Taylor
[Judgment October 24]

The court, exercising its jurisdiction under Order 62, rule 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, in civil proceedings might require a solicitor personally to pay the costs of other parties to the proceedings where such costs had been incurred improperly or unreasonably or where they had been wasted by his failure to conduct the proceedings with reasonable competence and expedition.

The principle that gross misconduct or neglect should be shown, as a necessary precondition to the exercise of the court's jurisdiction, did not apply in civil proceedings.

The court, dismissing an appeal by Mr Comer's solicitors, Saunders & Co, Maidstone, from Judge Dobson, QC, sitting at Bloomsbury County Court, ordering that, pursuant to Order 62, rule 11, as applied to the county court by Order 38, rule 11(3) of the County Court Rules 1981, they should personally pay Mr Gupta's costs in respect of certain proceedings between the parties in January and May 1989.

Mr Patrick Roche for the solicitors; Mr E. David Ellis for Mr Gupta.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the solicitors had contended that, notwithstanding Order 62, rule 11, there was no jurisdiction to make such an order unless the court found that the conduct complained of amounted to a serious dereliction of the solicitor's duty and that no such finding had been made in *Myers v Elman*, [1990] AC 282.

His Lordship said that the proposition that in the exercise of its inherent or common law jurisdiction over solicitors, as officers of the Supreme Court, the court should not make a costs order against a solicitor in his capacity as such unless satisfied that the conduct which gave rise to those costs being incurred could properly be described as a "serious dereliction of duty as a solicitor, either by himself or his clerks," "gross negligence" or "a gross neglect".

The former Order 65, rule 11, was treated as being intended to

provide machinery for the exercise of that inherent jurisdiction. His Lordship referred to subsequent changes in the Rules of the Supreme Court which had nevertheless continued to provide such machinery, thus applying the law as stated in *Myers v Elman*; see *Orchard v South Eastern Electricity Board* ([1987] QB 563).

In 1986 the new Order 62, rule 11, was introduced replacing its predecessor, its wording differing in that it introduced references to "reasonable competence and expedition" and omitted references to "misconduct or default" which had featured in all the previous rules.

Considering the new rule in *Sinclair-Jones v Kay* ([1989] 1 WLR 1137) the Court of Appeal held that the *Myers v Elman* criteria were not applicable to it. His Lordship referred to the judgment of Lord Justice May (at p121) who had said that the old rule was intended to become the new Order 62, rule 11 in order to widen the court's powers in cases falling properly within the rule. He had considered that the principles requiring gross misconduct laid down in earlier authorities were not applicable on an application under the new rule.

In *Holden & Co v Crown Prosecution Service* (*The Times* November 15, 1989; [1990] 2 WLR 1137) the Court of Appeal held that in ordering solicitors personally to pay costs incurred in 'crown court' proceedings the *Myers v Elman* criteria did apply. The Rules of the Supreme Court had no application because the order under appeal had been made, not in the High Court or county court, but in the crown court.

Had matters stopped there, there would have been two decisions of the Court of Appeal together making it clear that there was one rule applicable in the context of criminal proceedings in the crown court, and a different rule in the context of civil proceedings in the county court, High Court, and Court of Appeal.

However, in the judgment of the court given by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice in *Holden* (at p143) the court had concluded that Order 62, rule 11 was nothing more than machinery for implementing the inherent jurisdiction, that it was not an alternative basis for exercising the jurisdiction and that the

reasoning in *Sinclair-Jones v Kay* was therefore inconsistent with the authority of the House of Lords in *Myers v Elman*. That court therefore regarded itself as free to hold that there was no distinction between civil and criminal trials and that the new rule had in no way changed the previous law.

In the present case, both counsel submitted that the court was faced with conflicting decisions of the Court of Appeal and was required to choose between them. His Lordship was, however, unable to accept that.

The rule of stare decisis was concerned with *ratihabes decedendi*. The ratio of *Sinclair-Jones v Kay* was that in civil proceedings governed by Order 62, rule 11, *Myers v Elman* did not apply.

The ratio of *Holden*'s case was that Order 62, rule 11 did not apply in crown court proceedings where the court's jurisdiction was limited by *Myers v Elman*.

The powerful criticism of *Sinclair-Jones* in Lord Lane's judgment was accordingly *obiter*. In his Lordship's judgment in those circumstances the court now had to follow and apply *Sinclair-Jones*.

His Lordship wholly endorsed Lord Lane's dismay that there should be two different standards. Parliament was currently being asked to amend section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 in terms which would enable new rules of court to be made imposing an even stricter standard than that which Order 62, rule 11 had been held to impose.

His Lordship referred to *Alden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk Ltd* ([1986] AC 565) which was undoubtedly authority for the proposition that the court had jurisdiction under the 1981 Act and the rules to order payment of costs by a stranger to the action.

It would be a somewhat illogical position if, of all such strangers, solicitors were alone protected against any such order being made where they were guilty of a serious dereliction of duty.

He would dismiss the appeal. Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Saunders & Co, Maidstone; Balcombs, Hemel Hempstead.

Appealing fair trading order

Director of Fair Trading v Seax

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor
[Judgment October 8]

An appeal from an order of the county court registrar made in proceedings under Part III of the Fair Trading Act 1973 lay to the county court judge, pursuant to Order 37, rule 6(1) of the County Court Rules 1984, and not to the Court of Appeal, under section 42 of the 1973 Act.

The Court of Appeal so ruled in respect of an appeal by Mr Terence Stuart against an order of the registrar in Salford County Court in proceedings brought by the Director of Fair Trading over trading practices.

Miss Catherine Wilson for Mr Stuart; Mr Stephen P. Richards for the director.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr Stuart had consented to the making of an injunctive order by the county court registrar, designed to restrain him from any unfair trading practices.

Mr Stuart now wished to appeal on the ground that the order was too wide. The question which body had jurisdiction to hear the appeal arose — the county court judge, pursuant to Order 37, or the Court of Appeal, under section 42.

The court had given due weight to Miss Wilson's submission that the order was a decision of the county court so that the appeal lay to the Court of Appeal.

However the error in that submission lay in failing to appreciate that an appeal to the county court judge was in the nature of an internal appeal. It was only if the litigant wished to appeal outside the county court, an appeal from the county court to a higher court, that section 42 came into play and specified that the court should be the Court of Appeal rather than the Divisional Court or the Restrictive Practices Court, or any other court.

His Lordship was fortified in his conclusion by the analogous situation arising in relation to the High Court where section 16 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided that appeals from the High Court should lie to the Court of Appeal.

Where judgments and orders were made by registrars and masters of the three divisions of

the High Court, an appeal normally lay to a judge of the division concerned. No one had ever suggested that that was wrong and that all masters' decisions were appealable direct to the Court of Appeal.

The present appeal therefore lay to the judge under Order 37 because that internal form of appeal within the county court was not the type of appeal to which section 42 of the 1973 Act applied.

That section applied to appeals from the county court to another court, and such an appeal could only be brought after the internal remedies had been exhausted by an appeal from the registrar to the judge.

Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: James A. Singleton, Worsley; Treasury Solicitor.

Tribunal award can be paid into court

Zabax Ltd v Nicklin and Others

It was open to a successful applicant before an industrial tribunal whose award was the subject of an appeal to go to the county court where the sum awarded could be paid into court and interest could accrue pending the appeal.

Mr K. Graham, Mr J. A. Powell, so stated on October 16 when the Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by the employers, Zabax Ltd,

from an award of £8,500 in favour of the employee, Mr B. Nicklin.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the award had not been paid into court. Once an award had been made it was open to an applicant to go to the county court. It was really open to an applicant to do that as a matter of course.

There had been cases where the appeal tribunal were satisfied that the appeal was a tactical move to delay payment of an award and interest.

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THE LAW

Polys reveal a degree of lawful pride

Law courses outside universities receive too little recognition from potential students and employers. Penny Darbyshire states the case

Many people know too little about about polytechnic law degrees, especially potential students and employers. More than two decades since polytechnic law schools started teaching and examining their own degrees, awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), there are still people who think that all we do is teach catering law to bricklayers.

A recent article on the admissions system referred exclusively to "universities". As admissions tutor at Kingston Law School, in Surrey, I was incensed. There are 25 full-time and 17 part-time law degree courses at polytechnics and colleges.

The content and quality of our courses, since their inception, has been subject to intense scrutiny by the CNAA, to which we have, until now, had to resubmit our degree plans every five years. Universities, established by royal charter, have always awarded degrees in their own right, without outside supervision. Unlike us, university lecturers' teaching performances are a

closed book to Her Majesty's Inspectorate, which has just produced, after three years' examination of 12 institutions, *A Survey of Undergraduate Legal Education*. In it we are displayed to the rest of the world, warts and all.

The report's title is misleading, as universities are outside its ambit. The logic deflates me because, in escaping local authority control, polytechnics are now funded in a broadly similar way to universities, both relying on public money.

The survey finds, not surprisingly, that the content and method of examination of most courses is broadly similar to those of university degrees, as all are strongly influenced by the professional bodies' requirements.

One distinct feature of polytechnics is their development of part-time degrees, presenting an opportunity to such groups as women returners. The lecturers, the inspectorate found, are well qualified and many engage in research, writing and consultancy work. About half have worked in the "real world" outside academia.



Incensed: Penny Darbyshire resents the attitudes of potential students and employers to polytechnics

The inspectorate invited representatives from all such law teaching institutions to a conference last month to contemplate their work.

The inspectorate showed us some of the brightest and best educationists we have to offer, especially leaders in skills teaching, the use of information technology and library materials, client interviewing and clinical legal education. These are all growth areas that the inspectorate would like to see expanding to take account of the profession's needs and its new and proposed final courses.

All this was inspiring and impressive, confirming that there are some bright sparks in polytechnics dedicated to serving their students' real needs. The same may well be true of

universities but we shall never see their teaching displayed in this way.

However, universities have tended to concentrate on research and polytechnics on teaching. Polytechnic lecturers, because of outside scrutiny and the nature and weight of their teaching loads, have had to re-assess continually the content and quality of their teaching.

There is no better mother of invention than, for instance, the necessity of teaching quantity surveyors from 9am to noon when they no more wish to learn about the law of tort than you wish to teach them.

The quality of the best polytechnic and college law degrees is reflected in their student intake.

The most popular demand is 18 points, that is, three C grades at A level, and the average of their intake is higher. At Kingston, I can demand and expect 20-24 points. Here there is considerable overlap with the less popular universities. Every year a number of Kingston rejects are admitted to universities and every year at least a dozen turn down a university offer to come to Kingston. I was one such student and, when I studied for my post-graduate degrees in a new university and a redbrick university, I learnt I was right in doubting the common assumption that universities are always superior seats of learning.

● The author is admissions tutor for Kingston Polytechnic Law School, Surrey.

infant in the hands of a nanny. Being a solicitor is not a job that can be done effectively without total commitment.

Any woman leaving her firm because of pregnancy should talk to her employer about the effect of this on her promotional prospects. If discussions indicate that she will be treated on any basis that is unfair, she would be better advised to seek re-employment elsewhere.

In this situation, one must sympathise with the employee who is less than frank about her intention to return to work, fearing that she may lose some maternity benefits. Does an employer who treats her on anything other than a fair basis deserve any better?

● The author is a partner in the City firm, Fox Williams.

INNS AND OUTS

A will and a way

If all the prophecies come true, the next generation of wills and probate lawyers could be a far busier one than the last. The dramatic increase in home ownership and in the value of inherited house property (an increase from £465 million in 1969 to £7.5 billion today) has led to forecasts that inheritance will soon become the norm. Home ownership has risen since 1945 from 25 per cent of households to 66 per cent, and private renting has fallen from 66 per cent to 10 per cent in the same period. This has created a huge pool of privately owned assets which the present generation is expected to pass on in its wills.

However, *Safe as Houses. Housing Inheritance in Britain*, by Paul Chapman, to be published next month, suggests that a number of factors may obstruct the predicted national bonanza. Many home-owners, the author argues, may have to turn to the equity in their homes to pay for health care, sheltered accommodation or even an improved income in retirement. A change of government could also mean the reintroduction of progressive rates of inheritance tax. Whatever the effect on home-owners, lawyers should still see a marked increase for their services in the administration of estates, perhaps compensating for falling revenue from conveyancing.

A group of international organisations, including the International Bar Association, sent an observer to the trial of Nicolas Tiangaye, a leading lawyer in the Central African Republic, who is facing disbarment and possibly jail. The action arises out of remarks made in June by the lawyer when representing a colonel tried for harassing two soldiers. Mr Tiangaye questioned a system in which two "second-class soldiers" could destroy a colonel by one letter sent to the president's sister — a comment that caused no reaction at the time. However, the republic is also a single-party state and Mr Tiangaye is signatory to a paper calling for a multi-party system. Since June, the 30 other signatories have been detained without charge.

He is still at liberty, mainly, it seems, because he is a lawyer with strong international connections. Olivier Bernheim, a French advocate appearing for the lawyer on behalf of the Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats, says: "It is said that his remarks at the June trial offended the judges, but at the disciplinary hearing on October 9, it was clear that this is not a disciplinary case. It is a political matter. I have been told in private, by a government official, that it has been decided to disbar Nicolas and then put him in jail, which is astounding." However, the two justice ministers who refused to proceed against Mr Tiangaye were sacked. The decision of the disciplinary tribunal is expected today.

White collar crime is big business, greatly assisted by a combination of ignorance and the computer age. But while the perpetrators are making big money, they also leave behind them stories that are often stranger than fiction. Inevitably that means big business for the publishing industry. The American publishers Business One Irwin has jumped on the bandwagon and published two books bulging with the promise of revelations.

The first, *Swindler: How a Man Named John Grambling Jr Cheated Banks Out of Millions*, claims to reveal how the crimes were committed and follows the investigation by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the process by which the culprits were and were not brought to justice.

The second, *Spectacular Computer Crimes: What They Are and How They Cost American Business Half a Billion Dollars a Year*, claims to be an entertaining collection of 20 computer crimes with a chapter on how to secure a computer system. The books may be compulsive reading for potential victims, but they will no doubt prove popular among perpetrators of such crimes.

SCRIVENER

Facing the second hurdle

Christine Williams says women solicitors are still confused about how to behave

WOMEN contemplating a career in the law today face vastly different challenges from women solicitors 20 years ago. The issue then was: can a woman do as good a job as a man, in a world where commitment and assertiveness are all important?

That the question should have been asked at all may seem bizarre now, but the degree of resistance and incredulity those women faced in a male-dominated profession cannot be underestimated.

One suspects that to break down the resistance, women felt forced to demonstrate not only that they could do the job as well as men, but that they were even more committed and assertive than men.

Fortunately, that is no longer an issue. Many of those first women solicitors have now reached senior positions in their firms. The issue these days is more subtle: how are women to behave?

Some women still feel that they have to compensate for being female. They may be over-aggressive (never letting a point go, however insignificant, merely for the sake of winning the point) and over-assertive (seeing a slight on women where none is intended). These characteristics deter clients, colleagues and employers alike.

The time is right for women to abandon their suspicion of the attitudes of employers and male colleagues. They will never be accepted unless they accept themselves, and proceed on the assumption that they are accepted by their male colleagues.

But can women ever be equal? The only way in which they cannot is that they bear children. This necessitates breaks from their career, with attendant problems both for their employer (continuity, finding a replacement, extra costs) and for themselves

(keeping up with the law, not being penalised on the promotional ladder).

Here the woman solicitor and her employer can help themselves. The employer needs to avoid the error that some firms have made. Women are often more confident at interviews than their male counterparts and this had led some firms to employ more women than men solicitors, thereby becoming over-dependent on women.

No office should be allowed to become imbalanced, either way, in terms of the male-

female ratio. If an equal balance is maintained, absences should not be too great a problem and the advantages of retaining a female solicitor who knows the clients and the firm invariably outweigh the costs of absence through pregnancy.

For the female employee, it is essential that she be open with her employer about her plans. Nothing can be more detrimental to a woman solicitor and her employer than a situation in which she half-heartedly returns to work and worries all day about her new

infant in the hands of a nanny. Being a solicitor is not a job that can be done effectively without total commitment.

Any woman leaving her firm because of pregnancy should talk to her employer about the effect of this on her promotional prospects. If discussions indicate that she will be treated on any basis that is unfair, she would be better advised to seek re-employment elsewhere.

In this situation, one must sympathise with the employee who is less than frank about her intention to return to work, fearing that she may lose some maternity benefits. Does an employer who treats her on anything other than a fair basis deserve any better?

● The author is a partner in the City firm, Fox Williams.

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Graphic designers in television strive to illuminate an author's or producer's ideas and to reflect the atmosphere of the programme. They work closely with the producer, incorporating such devices as title sequences, diagrams and maps smoothly into the programme.

Computers are one of many tools. Graham Guest, the head of design at Thames Television, and John Aston, the BBC's graphic design manager at Shepherd's Bush, emphasise that computers are only a means to an end. The ideas are what matter.

Designers are to produce: title sequences to warm up an audience, and closing sequences with a list of credits; material to promote a network or station identity on screen; trailers for future programmes; material to be inserted in a programme, such as maps and charts in news and current affairs; and props, such as passports, banknotes or portraits.

The simplest opening titles consist of the name of the programme superimposed on the first scene, when the graphic designer is responsible for the layout and the lettering. More complex opening titles may include moving cartoon sequences and photographs or live action.

Mick Manville, the group graphic production designer at Thames, describes graphic designers as "jacks of all trades". Mr Aston calls them "general prac-

Graphics are widely used on television.

Joan Llewellyn Owens draws some helpful career conclusions

tioners", people who can handle typography, photography, illustration and animation.

Every job starts with a storyboard, and some of the work is done by hand or with printing equipment in a traditional way. However, computer graphic systems such as "Paintbox" have made it possible for the designer to generate images electronically and to experiment with colours and even to move a figure from one part of the screen to another. Then there is "Harry", a digital editing device that can combine images.

There can come from any source a drawn, live-action film or video or images previously produced by computer. It is not unknown for designer and operator to be the same person, but at the BBC the functions are separate and the designer directs the operator.

"Every job is different," says Michael Graham-Smith, a senior graphic designer with BBC Television. "Everyone wants originality, so you constantly have to produce something that has not been done before. But there is standard

bread-and-butter work, as well."

Once the designer's ideas have been accepted and a budget agreed, the work goes ahead. The process will probably call on the skills of others. The designer may commission animators or model-makers, or direct live-action photography. Possibly the design will call for the hiring of a 100-acre field and painting all a farmer's cows purple. It may mean hiring facilities companies, working with a costume designer or make-up expert, with a scenic designer, when part of the set needs to be constructed, or co-operating with visual-effects designers.

There are always deadlines. At the BBC News, one design team will be working towards a 9pm deadline, and if an important story comes in at 9.10pm, graphic material will be on screen within 20 minutes. Items for a regular programme will be determined by a planning meeting during the week before transmission, while other programmes may have a long gestation. Designers will usually be involved with several programmes at once.

What sort of people are they? They should have a degree or equivalent in graphic design, good drawing ability, imagination and ingenuity, and be able to work in a team.

Opportunities exist with the BBC's graphic design department at Television Centre in London, which offers services to all London-based productions for



In the picture: Colin Martin, aged 22, a freelance graphic designer, is working on a new situation comedy for Thames Television

networks and for news and current affairs. Both areas have their own groups of graphic design staff. Similarly, the network centres at Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester have graphic design groups, as do the national regions based in Glasgow, Belfast and Cardiff.

Jobs are also to be found with the ITV companies. Thames has split bases. London covers current affairs, factual programmes, news and sport; Teddington covers drama and light entertainment.

A final source of work is with independent television graphics companies, such as Ormans Young, which work for clients such as the BBC, ITV, advertising

agencies and businesses wanting to make corporate videos. Three of the four staff formerly worked for the BBC. Increasingly, says Haydon Young, the joint managing director of Ormans Young, they find themselves behind camera, directing, as well as coming up with new concepts.

Colin Martin, aged 22, is a freelance graphic designer on a three-month contract with Thames Television, where he has worked on and off for two-and-a-half years. From the age of ten, when he walked the dog of Mr Manville, who was his neighbour, it was his ambition to follow him to

Thames. After great persistence, he was hired as Mr Manville's assistant. Meanwhile, he obtained a national and then a higher national diploma in graphic design and in the summer holiday did freelance animation for a children's programme.

"You talk to the director and sometimes the producer," he says. "Sometimes they will give you music to work with and sometimes a raw idea of what they want. Usually, however, they just tell you what the programme is about and you come up with a few ideas, discuss them, and eventually get it just so."

Mr Martin is now working on a situation comedy, but also does

title sequences, promotions for new programmes and set dressings. He can use any medium. "If you thought you needed a shot of London from the air, you could go up in a helicopter and direct a photographer," he does, however, have to work to a budget.

As a freelance, he earns good money, enough to travel when he feels like doing some surfing in Hawaii or New Zealand.

Further information: The Training Department, ITV Association, Knighton House, 56 Mortimer Street, London W1N 6AN (071-636 0866). Broadcasting: Getting In and Getting On, by John Miller (Newpoint Publishing, £4.95); BBC corporate recruitment services, Broadcasting House, London W1.

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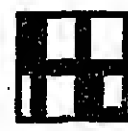
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Application forms quoting ref. 90/804 (Solicitor) or 90/805 (Legal Assistant) from the County Secretary & Solicitor, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN. Tel: (0225) 753641 ext. 3018. Closing date for applications: Friday, 30th November, 1990.

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Application form and job description available from: Department of Personnel and Administration, Robert Bewick House, Burton District Hospital Centre, Belvedere Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 0RB. Tel: 0283 66333 ext 5560.

Closing date: November 22, 1990.

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Written applications, or written requests for further information, should be addressed to The Chairman, Post DT, The Wellcome Trust, 1 Park Square West, London NW1 4LL.

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THE TIMES

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(Ref. 90/91-30)

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Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (38604), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, U.K., or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Fax: (852) 5582058; E-mail: APPTUNIT@HKUVM.HKU.HK). Closes 4 January 1991.

Fewer lectures as students set out on a course of discovery

Members of the faculty will spend less time in lecture rooms, but work on learning that is self-directed

Medical and dental students at Queen Mary and Westfield College's (QMW) new Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences will spend far less time in the lecture theatre than students at more traditional medical schools.

Instead of traditional lectures, the emphasis at the college will be on what Dr Donald Mason, the dean of the new faculty, calls "self-directed learning" (SDL), encouraging students to discover information for themselves. The maximum lecture time will be two hours a day, Dr Mason says.

He adds: "The student is given an objective and it is up to him or her as to how he reaches that objective. We provide options, but he is not restricted, as he is when he's in a lecture theatre, to scribbling notes."

The new faculty's building, on the college campus at Mile End in east London, will be formally opened by the Princess Royal today. The faculty is the first fruit of a collaboration, called the City and East London Confederation (CELC), which links without merger, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (Bart's), the London Hospital Medical College and QMW, all colleges of London University.

Bart's and the London will continue to teach the clinical part of the medical syllabus but their students will be taught the basic medical sciences - anatomy, biochemistry, pharmacology and physiology - at QMW.

Almost 600 students and more than 40 academic staff, all from Bart's and the



Dr Donald Mason: "The student is given an objective and it is up to him or her as to how he reaches it"

London, have moved into the new QMW unit. Starting a new faculty from scratch has provided the academics with a rare opportunity, the chance to rework radically the medical curriculum. The much-reduced emphasis on lectures is part of that.

"We have tried to face up to the problem of the surfeit of information," Dr Mason says. "There is an enormous amount of information which at various times people have thought is essential for medical students to learn. In consequence, they have become just blotting paper."

The danger, of course, is that students accumulate facts without necessarily understanding them. The college's new curriculum aims to correct that. "We have deliberately limited the amount of didactic teaching and instilled a large portion of self-directed learning," Dr Mason says. A variety of SDL techniques

will be used. At the simplest level, students will be encouraged to teach themselves more from books and other medical literature, guided by their tutors. But information technology will also be utilised, everything from computer-aided learning to the use of interactive video.

Much of the pressure for the changes came from medical students. Professor Lesley Rees, the dean of Bart's, says that lectures are important because they are an economic way of imparting information, but there is a limit to their usefulness. Surveys among medical students had made it clear that they disliked the traditional emphasis on lectures and rote learning.

She says: "If that is all a student is getting, learning can become boring, a stultifying experience."

The new system, Professor Rees says, will foster the spirit of enquiry.

The switch of emphasis to SDL techniques has another purpose, which looks well beyond the student's undergraduate years. Dr Mason sees the greater self-reliance that will be involved in SDL as valuable training for their later, professional lives. It will encourage the trainee doctors to read and evaluate and form their own views, something they will have to do a lot of later on.

"In the normal professional life of a doctor, he will live through some enormous changes, to judge from the past, and superimposed on those changes will be a whole raft of medical and public fashion about medicine, and he or she has to adapt to it," Dr Mason says. "So he has to know where to get his information and how to evaluate it, and that is quite apart from the loads of information thrown at him by the pharmaceutical industry."

patient as a disease rather than a person."

The curriculum has been designed to allow for increased teaching of subjects like sociology, psychology and medical ethics. "The curriculum has not only addressed the problems of the factual information that the student has to acquire and how he acquires it," Dr Mason says, "it has attempted to address the problem of the doctor-patient relationship so that the patient is known by his name, not by his disease."

The CELC project is not, of course, simply about medical education. For the first two years of their degree, medical students are going to be thrust into the middle of a multi-faculty college. They will have to mix with students from many other disciplines, something that has not happened to any great extent in the London medical schools.

Professor Graham Zellick, the acting principal of the college, hopes it is an opportunity they will grasp with both hands. "I am certain they will get something from being here," Professor Zellick says. "Without being in any way critical of what a medical school can provide, it is inevitably very narrow. An institution such as this is bound to be very different. We have 5,500 students, from all over the world, of all ages and all races, studying in seven faculties."

"Because of the enormous advances in medical science over recent decades," Dr Mason says, "it has become easy for the doctor to see his



Professor Graham Zellick: an opportunity to grasp

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Streetwise union leader: QMW's Richard Learwood

How an image is being cleaned up

RICHARD Learwood, the president of the QMW Students' Union, wants to get the college students out on the streets - not demonstrating, but cleaning them up. The particular street he has in mind is the Mile End Road, on which the college stands.

"It is a dirty trunk road that trails through east London," Mr Learwood says, "and it is horrible." The clean-up idea came when he was in a Mile End Road laundrette, having waded through piles of rubbish to get there. "I was watching a woman sweeping out the laundrette, and she just swept it on to the road. It is someone else's problem from there."

Mr Learwood decided that it was not - it was at least as much his (and QMW's) problem as anyone else's. He has discussed it with the union's bank, Barclays, whose branch manager has helped him plan a campaign.

He wants the council, Tower Hamlets' neighbourhood representatives, and local businesses and institutions such as QMW to get together to give the road a facelift. This would involve repaving, repainting railings, bollards and lamp posts, installing rubbish bins, which might be sponsored, and placing hanging flower baskets along the road.

Mr Learwood has no illusions of his being an easy task. Some local traders may well argue, for example, that the new business rate is heavy, enough without their making voluntary donations and then improving the area is the council's job. In fact, he hopes

a big initial injection of funds will come from the council, and probably a bit from the college and leading local businesses.

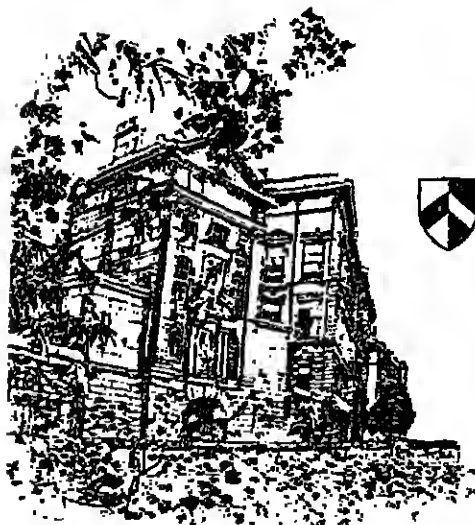
There is also the danger that residents will resent what might seem like a transient population telling them what to do. So it is a difficult thing to handle, but Mr Learwood believes, worth it. "It will be to the benefit of the students and the college but it will be just as much benefit to everyone else around here," he adds.

Mr Learwood, a graduate doing the president's job for a year before he looks for a job outside, also needs tact and diplomacy to sort out a problem in the college itself.

The three-way link-up of QMW, Bart's and the London Hospital Medical College under which QMW will take over pre-clinical teaching of the basic medical sciences from the two medical schools, means that for two years the medical and dental students will be to some extent isolated from their parent medical colleges. This is bound to mean divided loyalties, Bart's and the London have thriving student unions and sports clubs, so there is a dilemma: QMW obviously wants to integrate the medicals into life at Mile End Road, while the medical school unions do not want to lose their youngest members.

"This worried all parties," Mr Learwood says. "We set up a working group that has been meeting all year to try to overcome some of these difficulties. To them, the first two years represent the life blood of the union."

A LANDMARK IN MEDICAL EDUCATION



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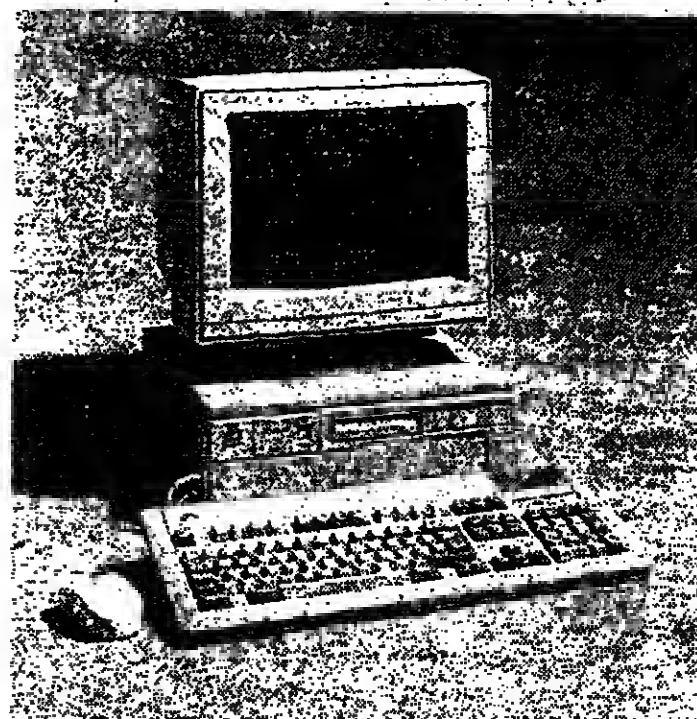
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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



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QUEEN MARY & WESTFIELD COLLEGE:
NEW FACULTY OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCE

In a new centre at the college, a team is seeking new ways to replace hip joints

Bones
that are
made
by man

Queen Mary and Westfield College has been chosen by the Science and Engineering Research Council as an Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) to study biomedical materials.

IRCs allow the national research effort in important areas to be located in one centre. The college's centre, which will be awarded £10 million, most from the council, during the next six years, will be led by Professor William Bonfield, the head of the materials department. The centre will initially concentrate on the use of new materials in hip replacements, on which Professor Bonfield has become a world authority.

The centre will collaborate with the London Hospital Medical College, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and the Institute of Orthopaedics at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

More than 40,000 people a year in Britain and 500,000 worldwide have an arthritic hip joint replaced, but the replacement has a limited life. This is not because of any failure in the materials, usually a metal spike stuck into the bone's medullary cavity with cement and a plastic receiving cup in the pelvis, but because there is a mechanical mismatch between bone and implant. The bone, which is a living tissue, retreats and the spike is loosened.

In people over 65, that process can take 12 years, but the younger the patient, the shorter the replacement's lifetime. People of all ages suffer from arthritis, so this is a real difficulty. The life of a conventional replacement for a 35-year-old could be two years or less. "There is a threshold



New for old: Professor Bonfield demonstrates hip replacement treatment for arthritis

where the surgeon will not perform the procedure at all," Professor Bonfield says.

Up to a third of the replacements in Britain are revisions of existing procedures. "Given that the whole system is capped, clearly one's ability to treat new patients is progressively being diminished," Professor Bonfield says.

The same arguments apply to other joints and fractures in which bone plates and screws are used. Although traditional materials are safe and biologically inert, they have shortcomings. Professor Bonfield's team is trying to develop materials that, circumvent these difficulties and are mechanically more compatible with bone.

The aim has been to develop materials similar to natural tissue. There is no direct bone equivalent that can be "taken off the shelf",

but the team has developed composite materials that reproduce many of the important properties of bone.

About 50 per cent of bone consists of little crystals of a ceramic material called calcium hydroxyapatite. The college's scientists have mixed hydroxyapatite and polyethylene into a composite with properties approximating those of bone.

This sounds straightforward, Professor Bonfield says, but the technology is complicated and the college still leads the world in this sector. If good analogues of bone can be made, the potential is enormous. It might be possible to make replacements to last 20, 30 or even 40 years, instead of the present 12 years.

This composite is only the start. The researchers will investigate proteins, which, if painted on the implant, might make the natural bone hold it more tightly, and speed up the whole process of fixation, Professor Bonfield says.

He says: "We are starting to look at adding biological features. Can we actually put down a protein layer on this before it goes into the body? Can we incorporate cells? This bridge between biology and materials science will be a particular feature of what we are doing."

Researchers who are
growing a new skin

Many of the academics recruited from Bart's and the London Hospital Medical College to teach the basic medical sciences are also leading researchers, pioneering in their own fields.

● **Skin grafts:** Scientists in the anatomy department are developing a skin substitute for plastic surgery. A basic problem is the lack of skin left intact on a burns patient's body for grafting over burnt areas. One solution has been to take skin cells from the patient or an unrelated donor, and grow new skin in culture. Initially, all skin cultures were based on keratinocytes, cells taken from the outer layer, the epidermis. But skin sheets grown in this way tend to be unstable and do not last long.

Scientists are now trying to produce a "whole skin equivalent" — a top, keratinocyte, layer plus a dermis, the skin's underflying. This is more stable and can be used for contour defects, such as holes in a limb, and it is cosmetically much better.

Professor David Riches, the head of the department, and his co-researcher, Jagdeep Nanchahal, a plastic surgeon at Charing Cross Hospital, are developing a substitute that they believe comes close to real skin. They separate out the cell types in a small specimen — keratinocytes from the epidermis and fibroblasts from the dermis. The keratinocytes and fibroblasts

are grown to produce a huge number of cells. The fibroblasts are put in collagen, the skin's basic "glue", and the keratinocytes on top. The result is a sample form of skin.

The aim is to produce this using other people's cells, modified to prevent quick rejection, so that it is available for immediate burns treatment. The skin substitute could be frozen and stored, then thawed when needed.

● **Winter deaths:** Hypothermia, the accidental lowering of body temperature, is not the main killer of old people in winter. Hypothermia deaths have never exceeded about 500 out of the 50,000 to 60,000 recorded "excess deaths", those above the number expected in average summer conditions. Professor William Keatinge, the physiology department head, believes concentration on hypothermia has diverted attention from the real problem. Many old people die from strokes and heart attacks caused by arterial thromboses triggered by cold, and Professor Keatinge and his colleagues have found a trigger mechanism.

They have exposed young adults and elderly volunteers to the cold stress that people suffer in everyday life, such as when waiting for a bus. Lab-

oratory experiments and, more recently, experiments in real conditions outside have shown that exposure to mild cold for only half an hour can change blood composition markedly. The blood becomes stickier and develops more cholesterol, red cells and platelets, the particles that trigger clotting. These phenomena, all increasing the likelihood of a clot, persist for hours after exposure.

Statistics had shown that the peak of deaths from coronaries was about 24 hours after a cold day. For strokes there was a lag of about three days. Professor Keatinge suggests the changes during the cold period start the thrombosis but the thrombus extends only slowly, so the process continues even after exposure.

● **Keeping cells in good condition:** Most cells are tiny. The one exception is the mammal's nerve cells. For example, man's sciatic nerve is a single cell running from the base of the spinal cord to the toes, which it controls. In such a nerve cell, the axon, the tubular part, is held in shape by a geodesic lattice structure of protein fibres. If this collapses, the axon implodes.

At the heart of the nerve cell

is a "blueprint" containing the genetic code. This governs the type and amount of proteins the cell produces, including those needed to keep the geodesic latticework in order. The adult cell is kept alive by target cells — in the sciatic nerve the cells of the toe muscle — and other so-called support cells along the length of the axon, which inject chemicals into the nerve telling it to continue making the proteins. It works, says Professor David Tomlinson, the pharmacology department head, because the chemicals can maintain the expression of certain genes in the blueprint.

For example, the genes maintaining the geodesic structure of the protein fibres that keep the axon cylindrical are sensitive to chemical messengers made by the target and support cells. Without them the process fails and the axon implodes, shrinks and dies.

This is what happens in some diseases of the peripheral nervous system such as diabetic neuropathy, in which patients lose sensory function. Professor Tomlinson's group is investigating this phenomenon. These substances influence the expression of particular genes to produce particular proteins, he says, so there is a possibility that the problem can be corrected. The team is evaluating drugs that might prevent such disorders by supplying the missing chemicals normally produced by the target and support cells.

Geography of society's health

ALL SORTS of academics scrutinise health care — economists, sociologists, psychologists — but Queen Mary and Westfield College must have one of the few health monitoring and research units in Britain where most of the practitioners are geographers.

The Health and Health Care Research Centre, set up in the mid-eighties, has concentrated on regional variations in people's health and in the resources available. Recent investigations have been countrywide (for example,

this year's coronary disease report) and local, including a recently published study of the housing and health problems of British Bengalis in Tower Hamlets, east London, right on the college's doorstep.

Professor David Smith, who heads the monitoring and research unit, gives two intellectual reasons why geographers should be involved: "One is that health is, to some extent, an outcome of local environment, whether it be physical, social or economic. The other is that services

are arranged in geographical space, so there may be more or less effective ways of actually arranging services, from the extreme of everything being concentrated in one hospital, where all the specialities exist, to a much more dispersed system of general practice, local preventive care and this kind of thing."

Professor Smith says geographers are particularly skilled in assessing such things. He says: "The doctor's job is not just about technical skills. We live here, or work here, in one

of the poorest parts of the British city economically, and one of the poorest by a whole range of health indicators. We are involved because local conditions make people ill and we want doctors trained so that they understand the broad social, economic, environmental context within which people get sick and within which they seek care."

Staff from the centre will contribute to the community health experience module that all medical students in the new faculty will study.

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